

INSIDE: 12 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH

The Brooklyn Paper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
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AWP/14 pages • Vol. 33, No. 34 • August 20-26, 2010 • FREE

MARTY'S CHAIN GANG

Beep's concert series uses inmates to cut costs

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Maybe Marty should call it his "cool-cert" series.

Two busloads of prisoners from Rikers Island — wearing matching red and white-striped jumpsuits — have been setting up and breaking down the chairs used this summer for Borough President Markowitz's controversial shows in Coney Island's Asser Levy Park.

The inmates aren't a threat to public safety, according to the

city — but they are a heck of a bargain for Markowitz.

"It saves me money, that's the motivation for having them!" said Debra Garcia, who is in charge of the Beep's concerts. "It costs about a few thousand dollars a week."

Under the "Cool Hand Luke" style program, the inmates set up 2,000 seats at the front of the park's bandshell near Surf Avenue and West Fifth Street hours before the show. The next morning, the inmates are returned to

the spot to collect the chairs.

The work detail for prisoners — which also takes place at Wingate Field in Crown Heights as part of Markowitz's Martin Luther King Jr. concert series — is the only one of its kind in Brooklyn.

A Department of Correction official said that there are only two other chain-gang-style work crews in the city — both near Rikers Island.

Markowitz had taken advantage of the discounted labor-in-

chains through the state prison system for at least the last 15 years, beginning when he was a state senator. But that font of labor ran dry this year as part of state budget cutbacks.

"The total cost is typically more than \$60,000 a crew," said Erik Kris, a spokesman with the state's Department of Correctional Services, explaining why the program was cut.

After the state cutback, Markowitz went to the city's jail system for help setting up

his weekly music extravaganzas, which this year have featured George Thorogood and the Beach Boys.

It is unclear why Markowitz's concerts are the only events in Brooklyn that get the benefit of prison labor. And there is no paper trail as to how he ended up as the only official getting such labor.

But there is no doubt that the concerts have highlighted the Beep's political savvy and influence — it was only three months

See PRISON on page 11



Prisoners from Rikers Island have been assembling and disassembling the thousands of chairs used in the summer concerts at Asser Levy Park as part of a labor assignment.

Grimaldi's saved

But landlord will evict pie joint next year

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Grimaldi's won the battle, but pizza lovers have lost the war.

The owner of the building housing the famous DUMBO pizzeria was ordered by a judge today to accept late rent payments and allow the coal-oiled joint to remain at its Old Fulton Street location — but the landlord says that she will kick out the late-paying restaurant when its lease expires in November, 2011.

But today's news — the stay of execution by Judge Robin Shears — was as satisfying as a Grimaldi's pie for owner Frank Cioli.



Grimaldi's owner Frank Cioli is in no mood to talk, even though he won his case.

"There is a God!" he said as he left the Downtown courtroom.

"We're staying in Brooklyn. Let's go have some pizza."

The decision came as a surprise to the landlord's son, Max Wax-

See PIZZA on page 11



The people who left this trash did not get a ticket from a Parks Enforcement Patrol officer. In fact, no litterer has gotten a ticket from a PEP officer in at least 20 months.

WHAT TRASH?

Park officers give litterers a free ride in filthy park, but crack down on dogs

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The agency in charge of policing Prospect Park hasn't written a single summons for litter in the last 20 months — but its officers have written up scores of dog owners for off-leash pets.

In 2009 and so far this year, during a barrage of coverage of filth in Prospect Park by local media outlets, Park Enforcement Patrol officers wrote zero tickets for litter — but issued 147 tickets for dogs that were not on a leash, according to data obtained by this newspaper.

The NYPD, which also patrols the park, issued only four summonses for litter in the same timeframe.



SCOREBOARD

147	0
Citations for dogs off leash since 2008	Citations for littering since 2008

while issuing 50 summonses for dog-related offenses.

"It's so crazy! I'm floored, really!" said Debra Zand, who regularly visits the park with her dog. "Numbers like this

show they're doing nothing to prevent the litter — prevention is key!"

There are typically two to four Park Enforcement Officers stationed in Prospect Park.

See TRASH on page 11

Name the Nets

Russian owner to change name of Brooklyn-bound basketball team

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

A team in a new town needs a new name, right?

New Jersey Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov has filed paperwork with the NBA to change the name of the Brooklyn-bound team — setting the stage for countless arguments at sports bars across the borough.

"The name change will happen in 2012," Prokhorov told Forbes Russia magazine, referring to when the team is expected to play in the Barclays Center at Flatbush and Atlantic avenues.

It is unclear what the Shooting 'Tear actually has planned, though — apparently the paperwork needs to be filed even just

to change the team name from "New Jersey Nets" to the "Brooklyn Nets."

Previously, Prokhorov had joked to reporters that he would change the name of the team to his girlfriend, and that every time he got a new one, he would change the name again.

In the spirit of new beginnings, we asked our readers online to send in their proposed name for the Brooklyn squad by e-mail or in our comments section. Here were some replies — with a few suggestions from the guys in the newsroom: Dodgers, Brownstones, Straphangers, Knights (like Brooklynites, get it?), Browns, Traffic Jams, Blacktops, Paper.

Send your proposed new name by e-mailing newsroom@nyclocal.com.



They'll bury him

Man selling unauthorized 'Casket' T-shirts

By Gary Bulso
The Brooklyn Paper

A Queens man who is hawkking souvenirs of the borough's iconic casket company is digging his own grave — legally speaking.

Gary Comorau has been selling South Brooklyn Casket Company T-shirts and other garb on his own website — but now the multinational funeral company that bought the Gowanus gravemarker in 2005 wants to put his business venture six feet under on the grounds that he is violating their copyright.

But Comorau is whistling past the graveyard.

"I've ignored their cease-and-desist letters," he says.

See CASKET on page 5



Gary Comorau is selling a line of South Brooklyn Casket Company T-shirts — apparently in violation of the company's wishes.



Planners want an Apple store in the Municipal Building.

The 'Apple' of Downtown's eye

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Downtown Brooklyn planners are taking another crack at landing the borough's first Apple store — and this time, they really (really) think it'll work.

For the second time in three years, the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership has released a rendering of a bustling retail center in the ground floor of the four Municipal Building on Joralemon Street — but this time, planners

made the storefront even more glassy and stuck a few Apple logos on it.

The quest to fill the Municipal Building with something other than bureaucrats dates back to 2007, when the Partnership re-

leased a similar rendering depicting the same building, along with promises of some sort of retail center that would fill the building's "dead space" and raise revenue for the city.

Everyone mouthed the word

"Apple" then, too.

Unfortunately, Apple is playing Sphinx. The company isn't talking, though it has said that Brooklyn is "an option."

Apnoea? There are more Macs

See APPLE on page 11

City declared 'no fly zone'

Bloomberg wanted even more birds in crosshairs

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

The blood is on the city's hands. New documents revealed this week that city officials pushed for a "no-fly zone" for geese far wider than a five-mile radius from airports suggested by federal officials — even discussing the need for a 30-mile kill zone.

The minutes from the Nov. 15, 2006, meeting of the Bird Hazard Task Force — the team that would later approve the controversial, middle-of-the-night massacre of geese in Prospect Park this summer — reveal a vigorous debate among various city, state and federal agencies about just how far they would go to ensure that airplanes would not collide with geese.

"A five-mile radius is sensible, not further than five miles," a representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture said at the meeting, according to the minutes, which we obtained through a Freedom of Information Law request. The minutes typically

Documents obtained by The Brooklyn Paper reveal that last month's extermination of some 290 geese in Prospect Park may not have been necessary. The excerpted transcript below represents minutes of a meeting among various state, city and federal agencies from 2006 that discusses a recommended kill zone.

U.S. Department of Agriculture: A five-mile radius is sensible, not further than five miles.

Kim Wagner of Federal Wildlife Services: Geese will be hardest to control in parks. [There is] an emotional issue. [We] need to know how to handle [it].

Department of Environmental Protection: According to the Federal Aviation Administration in previous meetings, five miles is just a

only provide the name of the agency speaking during the conversation, not the speaker.

But then a representative of the city's

number. The liability issue can extend 30 miles [and] influence any large area.

USA: No additional studies will occur. ... [We] need to pick a distance.

DEP: [Can we] put to rest the five-mile limit? [We] are not satisfied.

Port Authority of NY and NJ: Five miles is a huge area to manage.

Jamaica Bay representative: Five miles is good.

Department of Environmental Protection said that a five-mile radius is simply not adequate.

See GEESE on page 11

GOOSEWATCH 2010

107

GEESE IN PROSPECT PARK
(As of Tuesday, Aug. 17)

Just one month after federal authorities slaughtered virtually every goose in Prospect Park, 107 Canada geese have returned to the lake. What will be the goose population on the lake next week? Keep an eye out for GooseWatch 2010 — our official counter.

Tiny criminals

Bedbugs hit DA Hynes's office

By Ben Kochman and Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

A little villain is taking a bite out of the people who take a bite out of crime.

At least four floors in District Attorney Charles Hynes's Downtown office have been infested with the pesky mites and workers are not happy.

"When I found out that there were bugs, I ran out of there as fast as I could," a woman said outside the office on Friday after-

noon. "They're so disgusting." Hynes's spokesman has no idea how the outbreak started, but said that the DA's office has hired an exterminator.

"Just thinking about it makes me itch," said a woman who works on the ninth floor of the building — one floor below the DA's office. "I just hope that they're gone soon."

Office workers have their own theories for how the bug invasion began.

One woman blamed the Brooklyn outside the office on Friday after-

See BUGS on page 11

EYE OF THE STORM **THE WORLD'S BEST CYCLONES COVERAGE**

Break up the Cyclones!

Brooklynites key in All-Star loss

By Joe Anuta
for The Brooklyn Paper

The Cyclones were out in full force during Tuesday night's New York-Penn League all-star game, but for once their bats weren't blasting baseballs all over the field in a 4-3 loss for the National League-affiliated players.

The hometown heroes had a whopping eight stars in the mid-summer classic — no surprise given that the team has the best record in the New York-Penn League along with the highest batting average and the most home runs. Just as icing on the cake, their pitchers have given up the fewest earned runs.

But on Tuesday, the 'Clones' mighty offense fell quiet, though their pitchers made a valiant — but futile — effort that culminated in reliever Ryan Fraser being stuck with a 4-3 loss for the National League.

Still, the mini-Mets can hold their heads high. The eight players on the all-star team is a franchise record and made the showdown on Staten Island

look more like a run of the mill Cyclones road game.

Skipper Wally Backman was at the helm of the National League squad and praised his players.

"It's great," said Backman, the future manager of the New York Mets. "I'm really proud of our guys. But I thought we'd have a few more on there."

Indeed, the list could have included surging J.B. Brown, with his .309 batting average; Brian Harrison, with his seven homers in 126 at-bats; and pitcher Chris Hilliard, who is 7-1 this season.

Regardless, here they are, your Cyclones all stars:

• Pitcher Yohan Almonte has a 1.73 ERA, the third best in the league, and a record of 7-3. He gave up a walk in the all-star game, but no hits or runs.

• Joe Bonfio is at sixth in the league with a batting average of .323. He also has 27 runs, 12 doubles, three home runs, and 20 RBI. He failed to get a hit in two at-bats.

• Darrell Ceciliani squashes the competition, leading the league in runs (47), hits (83), batting average (.364), and total bases (122). Ceciliani also the fourth most stolen bases (18), the third most doubles (16) and on-base percentage (.416). He had only one at-bat and did not get a hit — a rare occurrence.

• Angel Cuan remains undefeated with a record of 5-0 in 11 games started, and has a 2.06 ERA. He's struck out 55 batters in 65-2/3 innings, more than any other pitcher in the league. He pitched a perfect inning with three strikeouts.

• Jeff Flagg has 39 RBI, the fifth best in the league. Flagg also boasts 13 doubles, five triples, six home runs, and seven stolen bases. The mighty first baseman did not notch a hit in the all-star game.

• Closer Ryan Fraser is fifth in the league in saves, with nine and has an 1.46 ERA. He's whiffed 31 batters in just 24-2/3 innings. Unfortunately, he gave up the go-ahead run in the eighth inning.

• Now-injured shortstop Ryan Sandoval has a batting average of .330 and is also in third place for home runs (nine), sixth place in total bases (101), and eighth place in hits (61).

• With 12 dingers and 44 RBIs, Cory Vaughn is on track to break the Cyclones single-season record of 13 home runs and 46 runs batted in. Vaughn is second in the league for total bases (119), and has a batting average of .308, nine doubles, four triples, and 10 stolen bases. He was the only Clone hitter to notch a hit and run scored.

'Stache of genius

Cyclones honor pitcher's upper lip

By Ben Kochman
for The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn relief pitcher Hamilton Bennett may be playing in Single A, but he has a major league moustache albeit from a decade far, far away.

Bennett's statistics this season have been average. But one feature of the hurler's game — his now-legendary 'stache — is anything but mundane.

To honor their beloved hirsute hero, the Cyclones will be holding "Moustache Mayhem Night" this Aug. 31, when the team will face the Vermont Lake Monsters.

Bennett says that his hairy lip is a shout-out to his South Carolinian roots.

"When I got here, they kept calling me, 'Hillbilly,' since I was from South Carolina," Bennett said. "So I decided to grow a moustache, which is probably the nastiest facial hair I could possibly grow."

Nasty? Pless. Bennett's caterpillar is straight out of a '70s porno film. But



Cyclones hurler Hamilton "Hillbilly" Bennett has grown a 1970s-era porn star moustache that has become the talk of the locker room (in a good way).

blame the Mets for this folical faux pas — Bennett said that the team's management only allows moustaches, no beards.


Given the big league club's hygienic restrictions, the Cyclones management had only one choice: celebrate Bennett's bristle with a special evening. Anyone who

comes to MCU Park with a moustache will receive a free bleacher seat. And for those weak-lipped folk out there, the 'Clones will give out 1,000 stick-on moustaches at the door.

Bennett, who said his favorite moustachioed player from baseball's glory days (of facial hair) was Oakland A's reliever Rollie Fingers, whose "quality stache" only makes Bennett happy to be part of the hairy lovefest later this month.

"I can't wait. It's going to be a great day, bring your moustache and come on down," the 'stached outpour said.

Moustache Mayhem Night at MCU Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 19th Street in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497), Aug. 31 at 7 pm. For info, visit www.brooklyncyclones.com.



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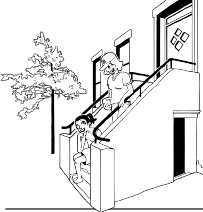
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THE SLO

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

DOWNTOWN



Buses already clog the Downtown artery, which now carries parts of seven lines.

Bu-aster

Livingston Street now a congested mess

By Ben Kochman
for The Brooklyn Paper

Broadwork along the Fulton Mall is causing congestion on neighboring Livingston Street, as four bus lanes have been diverted to the already busy Downtown corridor.

As of Aug. 9, the three-block stretch between Smith and Nevins streets now carries the B41, B45, B67, B25, B26, B38 and B52 — and traffic has never been worse. “I haven’t seen traffic as bad as it is here in a long time,” said Cecil Otley, who has lived in the borough for more than 30 years.

When the messy Fulton Mall reconstruction project began three weeks ago, the city moved the B25, B38 and B52 buses to Livingston Street. Then, on Monday, when the city closed down the mall between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue, the B26 was added — and the bottleneck has drivers and pedestrians fuming.

“With all of these buses, there are just too many people trying to cross that street,” said John Misiriotis, who owns the Apollo Diner at the corner of Livingston and Smith Street. “Someone could get hurt.”

Bus passengers are still dealing with the confusion of not finding their bus at the normal Fulton Street stop. “I found it this time, but last time I waited on Fulton for a while and had no clue where the bus was,” said Brooklyn resident George Hayes as he entered a Westbound B25 bus.

To deal with some of the mess, the MTA has a stationed a worker at the corner of Smith and Livingston streets.

“There’s been a lot of confusion,” said the man, who declined to give his name because of MTA policy.

The work will continue for at least a month — but there is a silver lining for at least one business.

“We’ve seen tons of new faces here at the diner,” Misiriotis said. “It might not be great for pedestrians, but it sure helps us a lot.”

BAY RIDGE

Owls Head still stinks

Fumes flowing from 69th Street plant

By Helen Klein
for The Brooklyn Paper

The stink is back.

Residents living near the Owls Head sewage treatment plant are holding their noses again and wondering when the stench which has pervaded their homes for years will finally go away.

“Every time [workers at the plant] screw up and open a door they’re not supposed to, there’s a tremendous stench that comes out,” complained Allen Bortnick, a member of Community Board 10 who lives near the wastewater facility at Bay Ridge Avenue and Shore Road. “People are suffering.”

Another neighbor, Eleanor Petty, said she was frustrated that the city celebrated the activation of new filtration equipment in May, even though the full \$40-million stench-reduction project was far from done.

“If the project isn’t complete, why do a ribbon-cutting?” she demanded.

Officials had a logical explanation for the continuing stench: sometimes, the complicated system of managing millions of gallons of human feces simply fails.

The most recent outcry came in the form of the result of “a system failure in one of the settling tanks,” said Joseph Beckmann, the district manager of Community Board 10. “To make the necessary repairs, they had to hose out the tank, and they told us it might get worse before it improved.”

The agency had not notified the board about the most-recent problem, she added.

An Environmental Protection spokesman said that the agency is committed to mitigating the unpleasant odors emanating from the plant, and “wants to be a good neighbor,” but the city’s failure to stanch the stench has a long and smelly past.

In 2007, last spring, the city created elaborate steel-and-wood covers on some of the tanks, an improvement that was followed in 2008 with the installation of a new flare to burn off excess gas. The agency also sealed some windows to help contain the stink, and completed renovations of an odor control system in its screening rooms.

Most important, the agency stopped storing “grit,” a smelly byproduct of the treatment process, outdoors.

The final two tanks were covered earlier this summer, but there have still been periodic complaints.

The agency spokesman said that all of the problems should be solved by December — and Commissioner Cas Holloway said that his workers should be commended for their effort.

“We’re taking every reasonable measure to limit our impact on the community,” he said.

Petty, the neighbor of the plant, appreciated the effort, but said it was unsatisfactory.

“The odors are still there,” she said. “It’s horrendous every single day.” No. But, when they have a problem, it comes right through the air conditioner?

PARK SLOPE

Bust a move!

JFK statue returns to former home in Grand Army Plaza

By Alex Rush
for The Brooklyn Paper

JFK is back and better than ever.

A perpetually neglected bust of the slain president has been enhanced by its original sculptor and restored to its location in the northern part of Grand Army Plaza after a seven-year absence.

The city removed the original larger-than-life bronze statue of the 35th president’s head and celebrated torso, which had been ransacked with gasches and spray paint, and didn’t have the money to put a new-and-improved version back on its bare pedestal until May.

The official rededication ceremony is set for Aug. 24.

“Myself, and everyone I’ve talked to, has been very pleased that it’s back,” said Richard Kessler, a Park Slope artist who wrote a book about the history of Grand Army Plaza, “The Brooklyn Mirror.”

The JFK Memorial in the same place where a statue of President Abraham Lincoln stood from 1899 to 1895, when it was then exiled deep into the park in (believe it or not) a Civil War-related dispute. The Lincoln statue returned to a more-prominent location inside the park last year.

Like the Lincoln statue, the JFK tribute didn’t receive great treatment from the city over the years.



The monument to John F. Kennedy, a former president, has been restored to Grand Army Plaza. An official rededication is set for Aug. 24.

JFK bust rededication ceremony (Flatbush Avenue at Vanderbilt Avenue in Park Slope, 718) 955-8954, Aug. 24, 11 am.

WILLIAMSBURG

Cops: We’ll get ‘Crusader’

By Andy Campbell
for The Brooklyn Paper

Cops spoke out against the infamous Bike Crusader this week, vowing to lock up the renegade if he injects any more bike locks with Krazy Glue.

It’s the 4th Precinct’s first response since the Bike Crusader — a longtime neighborhood resident who’s so

misfired about bikes cluttering the sidewalk that he’s taken to vigilante justice — took the news by storm last week.

“If we catch this person, he’ll be locked up for criminal mischief,” said Deputy Inspector Dennis Fulton from the 94th Precinct, which covers the bike-choked strip of Bedford Avenue that the Crusader is targeting. “I’m willing to talk to this person about it beforehand, though, so we can get this thing settled.”

Since the story broke in these pages last week, the Crusader — whose name has been concealed because we have not witnessed the crime itself — has been unwilling to negotiate with bikes or police, claiming the 10 years of petitioning for a bicycle “depot” on Kent Avenue or in McCarren Park have gone unanswered and forced him “to take the Williamsburg bike crisis into my own hands.”

The Crusader wouldn’t divulge when — or even if — he’ll continue to strike after the madcap of attention that the story received over the past week, but he appears to be losing the larger battle.

Fulton told us that removing bikes from the streets surrounding Bedford Avenue is a low priority — cops clip bike locks only if the cycles are abandoned or if someone complains about them specifically.

Indeed, most anti-bike initiatives are met with horror in Williamsburg.

“We used to clip [and take] bikes because they weren’t on bike racks — but the majority of people in Williamsburg were outraged,” Fulton said. “Our resources are going to help the community, and most of the community uses and wants these bikes around.”



Fulton’s comments reflect one of the Crusader’s biggest complaints: that bikes are abandoned or otherwise cluttering the sidewalk at N. Seventh Street and Bedford Avenue for the bikes, and put U-shaped bike racks on almost every block on the Bedford strip.

“If there’s any neighborhood where they should be widening bike lots on every block, it’s Williamsburg,” said Noah Budnick, deputy director of Transportation Alternatives. “It’s sad that bike riders and pedestrians are fighting over the scraps — the vast majority of us are getting around by foot, bike and transit, but we’re fighting car owners over inches of sidewalk.”

Budnick even liked the Crusader’s idea of a bike depot, where bikers would lock their controversial wheels in a secure lot that charges \$1 a day. But he also agreed that the Crusader’s behavior is “unacceptable.”

By then, the city had again run out of dough.

Eastern, an 84-year-old Brooklyn native who has also crafted statues of presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Jimmy Carter, wasn’t about to let his work get shut down.

Using the plaster cast of the original clay model, Eastern made a larger, rounder version of JFK, adding more defined facial features and detailed carvings on the back.

Eastern’s initiative paid off — literally. Last year, the city came up with \$70,000, enough to return Eastern’s new monument to its rightful spot.

“It’s great for Eastern to be able to revisit a project years later, now that he’s more mature in his work,” said Parks Department spokesman Eugene Patron. “He really put more details into it.”

JFK bust rededication ceremony (Flatbush Avenue at Vanderbilt Avenue in Park Slope, 718) 955-8954, Aug. 24, 11 am.

Cops are after the “Bike Crusader” for gluing cyclists’ locks in a vigilante attempt to ease bike congestion (left).

burg, offered public threats to the Crusader: “You glue my bike lock and I will glue your eyes shut.”

At the end of the day, most of the bikers just want Williamsburg to be allowed to grow into the cycling hub it has already become. Indeed, the city already widened the sidewalk at N. Seventh Street and Bedford Avenue for the bikes, and put U-shaped bike racks on almost every block on the Bedford strip.

“If there’s any neighborhood where they should be widening bike lots on every block, it’s Williamsburg,” said Noah Budnick, deputy director of Transportation Alternatives. “It’s sad that bike riders and pedestrians are fighting over the scraps — the vast majority of us are getting around by foot, bike and transit, but we’re fighting car owners over inches of sidewalk.”

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“It’s great for Eastern to be able to revisit a project years later, now that he’s more mature in his work,” said Parks Department spokesman Eugene Patron. “He really put more details into it.”

JFK bust rededication ceremony (Flatbush Avenue at Vanderbilt Avenue in Park Slope, 718) 955-8954, Aug. 24, 11 am.

Cops are after the “Bike Crusader” for gluing cyclists’ locks in a vigilante attempt to ease bike congestion (left).

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At the end of the day, most of the bikers just want Williamsburg to be allowed to grow into the cycling hub it has already become. Indeed, the city already widened the sidewalk at N. Seventh Street and Bedford Avenue for the bikes, and put U-shaped bike racks on almost every block on the Bedford strip.

“If there’s any neighborhood where they should be widening bike lots on every block, it’s Williamsburg,” said Noah Budnick, deputy director of Transportation Alternatives. “It’s sad that bike riders and pedestrians are fighting over the scraps — the vast majority of us are getting around by foot, bike and transit, but we’re fighting car owners over inches of sidewalk.”

Budnick even liked the Crusader’s idea of a bike depot, where bikers would lock their controversial wheels in a secure lot that charges \$1 a day. But he also agreed that the Crusader’s behavior is “unacceptable.”

By then, the city had again run out of dough.

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Woman fights back against thief

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill—Red Hook
A thief grabbed a woman's iPod—but didn't get her purse—on a Coney Island-bound F train on Aug. 12.

Cops say that the train pulled into the Smith-Ninth Street station at around 8 pm when the thief made his move, grabbing the iPod Touch and leaping outside of the train.

The 23-year-old victim gave chase, only to be shoved to the platform. But she held onto her purse, which the thief tried to grab. The 15-year-old,

5-foot-8 perp fled as bystanders approached.

Stamp out

Someone stole a mess of computing equipment from a Richard Street business on Aug. 15.

The thief entered through the open back door of Stamp Studio, which is at Coffey Street, at around 9:40 pm and helped himself to an Apple laptop, five hard drives and several monitors, though the thief dropped both monitors as he fled and Dwight Street.

Louse party

A thief stole a party-go-

POLICE BLOTTER

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er's wallet as she boogied in a Bond Street apartment on Aug. 8.

Cops say that a house party was raging in a building near Baltic Street at around 8 pm when the thief made his move, taking a wallet that contained various cards and \$340.

Liberty denied

A thief broke into a res-

taurant supply company on Court Street overnight on Aug. 10.

Cops say that someone broke into Liberty Restaurant Supply, which is near Bay Street in Red Hook, after the business closed for the night at 6 pm.

The next morning, a worker discovered that a thief had broken through the front door and taken \$16,000.

Tee'd off

A gang pummeled a man with bats and golf clubs on Court Street on Aug. 15.

It's unclear what sparked the bashing near the corner of Second Place, but the 17-year-old victim told cops that the men attacked him at around 3:12 am.

He sustained minor bruising, and refused medical attention.

TV screened

Remember that perp who stole two flat-screen TVs from the Brooklyn Motor Inn on June 22? Of course you don't—but cops did, and they made an arrest last week.

Det. Donald Faust collared a 21-year-old suspect in the robbery inside the motel, which is at the Battery Tunnel end of Hamilton Avenue in Red Hook.

Shot down

An 18-year-old was arrested after allegedly shooting another man on Dwight Street near Coffey Park on Aug. 8.

Cops say that two detectives were at Long Island College Hospital on an unrelated matter when a man came in with a gunshot wound to his shoulder at around 10:20 pm.

The detectives were intrigued, and questioned the man, who said he had been shot by an unknown man.

Cops flooded the zone, and witnesses gave up the suspect, who was arrested by Det. Patrick Miller the next day.

—Gersh Kuntzman

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO—Boerum Hill—Downtown

Wallet swipe
A crafty thief swiped a woman's wallet from her shopping cart as he browsed the Montague Street Key Food on Aug. 11.

The victim told cops that she was shopping at around 1 pm at the grocer between Hicks and Henry streets when the thief likely made his move. But there's a nifty little catch here: an accomplice.

After reporting the incident to cops, a security camera showed that shopper had been drawn into what appeared to be a normal conversation with another shopper. On retrospect, of course, it was the old distraction play, which led to the theft of \$400 and a pair of credit cards.

By the time she cancelled the cards, over \$900 in charges had been racked up at Lowe's.

Stick up

A gun-toting thief made a guy hand over his cellphone on Aug. 10.

The victim told cops that he was at Fulton and Lawrence streets at around 5:50 am when his attacker approached and said, "Give me your s---." The brigand then clocked his quarry in the face with the gun, knocking him out for a moment and stole his phone.

Plymouth pilfer

A thief broke into a Plymouth Street apartment on Aug. 11 and stole an assortment of electronics.

The victim told cops that she had had been at her Vinegar Hill house between Hudson Avenue and Little Street at around 10 am. When she returned from work about 11 hours later, the A/C unit in her bedroom window had been forced in, and she was missing a digital camera, two Apple laptops, and an iPad.

Dorm drama

A crafty thief stole a university student's watch on Aug. 11.

The victim told cops that he was in his dormitory on Livingston Street between Clinton and Court streets—which hosts an assortment of students from various institutions, including NYU-Poly—at around 10 am when he was distracted by a furniture delivery.

Starry eyed

A thief stole an Argentine woman's purse from the back of her chair at the Court Street Starbucks on Aug. 12.

The victim told cops that she had left her chair to order food at the cafe at Joralemon Street at around 12:30 pm when the thief stole it—somehow avoiding the notice of her distracted boyfriend, who was sitting right beside her bag.

She lost a cellphone, an assortment of credit cards, and her Argentine IDs.

Bridge bandit

A thief snatched a guy's camera as he walked on the Brooklyn Bridge on Aug. 9.

The victim told cops he was on the bridge and turning onto Prospect Street at around 3 pm when the creep stole his \$700 camera.

—Stephen Brown

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill

Mail rats

A lot of crooks were

HEROES OF THE WEEK

Scooter couple chases thugs!

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

A scooter-riding couple are the heroes of the week in Carroll Gardens after witnessing the theft of a cellphone and then chasing down the perps on their motorized cycle on Aug. 10.

The victim of the theft told cops that she was walking her dog while chatting on her cellphone near the corner of Hoyt and Degraw streets at around 8:30 pm.

That's when her attention was diverted to the mound of feces that had just been produced by her dog, whose breed was

not provided by cops. As she bent to do her civic duty, a teenager rushed over and grabbed the phone from her hand.

But the thug and his accomplice didn't get far before the Vespa-riding man and woman went on the offensive, chasing the perps towards Union Street.

That's where the woman jumped off the scooter, grabbed the phone out of the 13-year-old's hands and hopped back onto the two-wheeler.

Cops later arrested the teen, and his 16-year-old thug pal, in a canvass of the area.

—Thomas Tracy



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Driggs shooting a test in a spate of violence

By Aaron Short
for The Brooklyn Paper

Last week's shooting in Williamsburg's Hasidic Quarter may be part of a larger trend of bloodshed and drug activity.

Three people have been struck by bullets in the Southside, according to the 90th Precinct, which stretches south of Broadway to Flushing Avenue, most recently the shocking shooting of a rabbi's son, Burech Halberstam, on the corner of Driggs Avenue and S. Ninth Street early last Tuesday.

Community leader Isaac Abraham is convinced the shooting is part of a larger trend of drug trafficking that has swept through South Williamsburg this summer.

The 90th Precinct has to get more resources and drug enforcement to crack all the drug deals," said Abraham. "The entire neighborhood knows where, when and by who to get it."

Three people have been wounded in shootings in South Williamsburg over

Family blames cops

By Alex Rush
for The Brooklyn Paper

The family of the Hasidic man who was shot in the stomach in front of his Williamsburg home on Tuesday are blaming a lack of police — not anti-Semitism — for the robbery attempt-turned-shooting. "I don't want to make accusations, but we just need more police in the area," said the victim's mother, who requested that her name not be used.

Community members led by United Jewish Organization President Rabbi

David Niederman also refused to play the race card, though the victim, 25-year-old Burech Halberstam, told police that his assailants were Hispanic.

Cops have revealed little about the early Tuesday morning on the corner of S. Ninth Street and Driggs Avenue. Halberstam was talking on his cellphone at around midnight when two men approached. The thugs tried to take his phone, then rummaged through his pockets before firing at him when they didn't find any money.

Then the crime took an even more brutal twist. "After they shot him, they were laughing," one witness said.

The trigger-happy perps drove their white getaway van down Driggs Avenue, but another witness drove after them, following them to Berry Street. The men waved a gun and the Samaritan circled back to the scene of the shooting. Police found the alleged getaway car on Jefferson Avenue near Franklin Avenue. Bedford-Stuyvesant about an hour after the crime. Meanwhile, Halberstam

was taken to Manhattan's Bellevue Hospital, where he was operated on and remains in stable condition. His family said he could be home as early as Wednesday.

"He lost a lot of blood, but he's lucky the bullets didn't hit any of his vital organs," said his mother. No arrest has been made in the case, leaving Halberstam's mother spoiled. "I was born here, but felt less safe over the years," she said. "I even tell my son to call me when he gets home from visiting me at my house."



Leo Moskowitz shows off the bullet hole in his car. He also has bullet casings from other shootings in the neighborhood. The violence on the Southside has drawn more attention since last week's ambush of a Hasidic man.

was almost hit by a stray bullet in front of his house.

"I was relaxing with my friends and we saw two youngsters passing by and they shot my neighbor," said Masi. "We all ran away. We came out later and I called the cops."

Abraham has witnessed the aftermath of other shootings, which include multiple shell casings on Division Avenue near Berry Street after two drivers shot at each other and alarmed residents.

"It's a farce," said Abraham. "There are more drugs being sold in the area than at Walgreens. What do you ex-

pect?"

At a press conference held last week, Rabbi David Niederman offered a \$5,000 reward for any information that would lead to the apprehension of the suspects in Halberstam's shooting. He called the suspects, two Latino men, "bad apples" and said that the reward would send a message to people "who try to kill and rob and kill people."

But Halberstam's family said that police were not adequately patrolling the neighborhood and said that there should have been more police in the area.

Police from the 90th Pre-

cinct, which comprises the Southside and Bushwick, could not be reached for comment, but NY PD statistics do not suggest that the area has grown less lawless.

So far this year, there has been one murder in the entire precinct, down from four by this point last year. Assaults are down, but robberies are up — though neither by statistically significant amounts.

And, historically, crime is a tiny fraction of what it was when Halberstam's mother was raising her wounded son. In 1990, there were 24 murders recorded in the precinct.

Another iPhone stolen on Driggs Avenue

94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint-Northside
A slow runner was arrested for snatching an iPhone out of a woman's hand on Driggs Avenue on Aug. 10.

The woman told cops that she was talking on her phone near N. Seventh Street at about 8 pm when the thug ran up behind her and snatched the expensive device. He fled, but was no match for the marathon-worthy legs of the 94th Precinct, which caught up with him later.

Want

Two thugs held up a man for his iPhone and cash on Haverley Street on Aug. 10.

The victim told cops that he was between N. Seventh and N. Eighth streets at about 1:40 am when one of the perps approached to ask for directions. Before he had time to react, a second perp approached wielding a handgun and said, "Show me what's in your pockets."

One of the perps took the pedestrian's cash, iPh-

one and identification and the two fled.

Electro-burg

Some creeps broke into a N. 10th Street business and stole a bunch of electronics on Aug. 11.

Employees told cops that they opened the store, which is between Kent and Wythe avenues, at about 9 am to find that the front door was open and bags, cameras, a laptop and cash were missing. A security camera caught the perps — but alas, the picture was too dark to identify.

Wallet thief

A quick-handed jerk stole a woman's wallet inside the El Almacén restaurant on Driggs Avenue on Aug. 14.

The victim told police that she left her purse at the bar and went to the bathroom at about 5:30 pm. When she returned, she noticed that her wallet, cash and credit cards were missing. A security camera on scene caught the alleged thief standing next to the purse and then leaving.

POLICE BLOTTER

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about 4 am when one of them grabbed his cellphone while the other hit him on the left side of the face, and then the two fled. Cops later caught up with and collared the jerk.

Three on one
Three perps pushed a victim to the ground, then stole a cellphone and credit card on McGuinness Boulevard on Aug. 14.

The victim said that he was near Norman Avenue at around 1:50 am when the three thugs shoved him to the ground, injuring his elbow and knee. Then one of the jerks took his phone, credit and debit cards before the trio fled on foot.

Club stab
A violent thug stabbed his victim in the back on Aug. 14 and fled down Marcy Avenue.

The thug approached his victim from behind near Broadway at 3:30 am and stabbed him as the victim was entering La Nortena, a nightclub. The thug ran away and the victim said that he was bleeding.

Grand auto
A perp stole a car off Grand Street on Aug. 11.

The owner told cops that she parked it near Keap Street at 10:30 am and returned 90 minutes later to find it gone.

Havemeyer burg
A thief broke into an apartment on Havemeyer Street on Aug. 10, stealing two laptops.

The thief pushed in an air conditioner and entered the apartment after 3:30 pm through the back yard of the building near Metropolitan Avenue. He grabbed the computers and left he way he came.

The victim returned from work at 6:20 pm and was bummed.

Second chance
A burglar broke into a S. Second Street apartment on Aug. 9, taking its tenant's computer.

The resident told cops that she had left the unit, near Bedford Avenue, at 2 pm, and returned more than 24 hours later to find that the rear window was open and the stuff was gone.

— Aaron Short

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene-Clinton Hill
Five on one

Five thieves jumped a 21-year-old at the corner of Lafayette and S. Portland avenues on Aug. 10, taking the man's cellphone and camera.

The victim said that he and a friend were walking toward the corner at 9:30 pm when a stranger approached and started chatting up his pal.

That's when four others descended on the duo, forcing them to hand over their property, police were told.

Short tempered
Three bare-legged thieves pulled a gun on a 24-year-old near the corner of Greene and Vanderbilt avenues on Aug. 15.

The victim said he and his friends had reached the intersection at 5:15 am when the suspects — who were all sporting shorts — ran up, and one of the muggers had a pistol.

"You got something on you," a suspect asked before the thieves padded the

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick
ATM crook

A sneaky crook tricked his victim into withdrawing \$22,000 from his ATM on Aug. 4 to pay for a fake lottery ticket.

The crook lured his victim, a 72-year-old man, into a bank at 3:30 pm, claiming that he had a winning lottery ticket for \$500,000, but could not cash it because he was not a U.S. citizen.

The perp and his friend

victim down and ran off with his iPhone.

Mail rats

Two thieves were found shopping inside the frequently hit Atlantic Terminal Mall on Flatbush Avenue between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue this week.

Here's the rundown:
"A 25-year-old shoplifter was arrested inside Target after swiping over \$500 in DVDs and CDs on Aug. 13."

"A sticky fingered thief made off with a 29-year-old woman's wallet as she shopped for shoes inside DSW at 7:15 pm on Aug. 14."

"A 28-year-old told police she was perusing the aisles in Target on Aug. 12 when she put her wallet on a shelf for a moment. It was gone seconds later."

"A thief sneaked his hand in a woman's shoulder tote as she waited on line inside Victoria's Secret on Aug. 10, taking her wallet."

Burglar work
A busy burglary crew hit three apartments inside a building on Cumberland Street between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues on Aug. 9. Here are the details:

"Someone forced open the window to a 10th-floor studio sometime after 5 am, removing an iPhone left on a desk."

"Thieves swiped an Apple computer and a \$400 when they entered a fourth-floor apartment after 8:15 am. The 56-year-old tenant said that a window leading to the building's fire escape was open when he returned home."

Home raid

A thief was nabbed trying to swipe a tool from a Putnam Avenue home under renovation on Aug. 9.

A construction worker told police he was hip deep in work when he heard a noise coming from another room of the house between Irving Place and Downing Street.

When he went to investigate, he found the 37-year-old crook trying to sneak away with a \$200 grinder.

Realizing he had been discovered, the thief dropped the tool and ran off, only to be caught by cops a short time later.

Jared jack

A thief on something of a health kick made off with a woman's pocketbook on Aug. 13 during a stop at a Fulton Street Subway sandwich shop.

The victim said she was dining in the eatery between Clinton and Waverly avenues at 2:15 pm when she left her bag unattended for a few moments. That was all the time the fast-moving hoodlum needed to run off with her property, cops were told.

More bag grab
A thief ran off with a woman's handbag as she enjoyed her evening at a Myrtle Avenue nightclub on Aug. 13.

About \$3,800 worth of electronics and jewelry were removed from a sixth-floor apartment after the tenant left at 8 am.

The 30-year-old woman said she left bag hanging off the back of her bar stool inside the watering hole between Waverly and Washington avenues when the thief snatched the purse at 6:50 pm and scrambled for the door.

The woman couldn't catch up with the thief, who later used her plastic to buy a Met-rorcard, police said.

— Thomas Tracy

Reaching in

A thief stretched his way into a Clinton Avenue office on Aug. 12, swiping a laptop computer sitting near the window.

Workers said the laptop was left on a desk adjacent to the window at 4 pm, but was gone the next morning.

The window was found ajar, they said.

Quick grab

A fast-moving thief swiped a phone from a 24-year-old stranger on Aug. 11 as her train rolled into the Clinton-Washington subway station.

The woman said that she was seated inside the Euclid Avenue-bound subway car when the thief grabbed her bag and hopped out before the doors closed.

Car raided

A thief popped the lock to a Ford Econoline van parked on S. Portland Avenue on Aug. 14, taking a laptop computer and a digital camera.

The 39-year-old driver left the van parked between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues at 10 am. When he returned seven hours later, he noticed that his passenger-side door lock had been removed and the van's cabin had been looted.

Bike swipe
A thief gershed a \$2,000 Cannondale bike left inside the hallway of a Carlton Avenue building on Aug. 10.

The 28-year-old cycling enthusiast admitted that he left the bike unlocked in a common area of the building between Park and Myrtle avenues at 12:10 am. When he went to retrieve it at 9:30 am, it was gone.

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Celestine Miller, pictured with Assemblyman Joe Lentol, has died.

Miller is dead

Celestine Miller, longest-serving aide to longest-serving lawmaker, dies at 89

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

Celestine Miller, the longest-serving staff member of the longest-serving Brooklyn legislator in Albany died on July 23 after a long illness. She was 89.

Miller, a Fort Greene community liaison for Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint) for 27 years, was a health care advocate who maintained close relationships with Community Board 2, the 88th Precinct, and both Cumberland Medical Center and Brooklyn Hospital Center, where she served on the board of directors.

She helped many Fort Greene residents with immi-

gration problems and affordable health care and pushed city officials to address nagging quality of life issues in the neighborhood regarding pests and traffic—the kinds of advocacy work that made Fort Greene and Clinton Hill increasingly attractive neighborhoods in which to live.

One of Miller's longtime goals was to improve access to fresh produce in impoverished neighborhoods. As if on cue, a new community-run farm stand opened this month on Myrtle Avenue in front of the Ingersoll Houses.

"The city has lost a crusading and passionate community organizer," Lentol said, adding that he had lost "a great friend

and a valued aide."

"Celestine took very seriously her work for my office, and was in daily contact to report on local issues and work that she believed was necessary in the community," said Lentol. "I will remember the way her smile warmed a room, and her good work resulted in improvements to our way of life."

Born in 1921 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Miller came to Brooklyn at a young age, where she was educated in local schools. In 1946, she married Lloyd Miller. She is survived by her son, Lloyd Stanley, Jr., a daughter, Pearl Marvella, died earlier.



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Ed Towns reads the wrong book to kids

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

Rep. Ed Towns was no meatball for a bunch of kids last Friday.

Small rain clouds of confusion rolled over the Brooklyn Children's Museum in Crown Heights on Aug. 13 when the 27-year congressional incumbent's promised reading of the children's book, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," took an unexpected turn.

First, the 76-year-old Towns (D-Fort Greene), guessed correctly that young kids are terrible with telling time, so she showed up nearly 40 minutes late.

Then he read a different book, Lois Ehlert's "Growing Vegetable Soup." No, it wasn't, despite the title, a suggestion of what should be done with our Albany legislators but a step-by-step guide on how one can grow vegetables and then cook them all into one pot—a tale that got Towns's mouth watering.



Rep. Ed Towns reads along with Maria-Jose Tisoc and Amia Phillip.

"I'm getting hungry just thinking about it," he told about a dozen children and their families, as he read through the book a second time.

The children enjoyed the book, though they frequently accused Towns of the worst form of campaign violation: not sharing.

"Can we see the pictures?" asked little Maria-Jose Tisoc, the second person to remind the legislator that he was reading to a crowd, not just for his own enjoyment.

Towns's visit—a nice break from his oftentimes volatile campaign against challenger Kevin Powell—was part of the museum's W.O.R.D. UP! series, where dignitaries, authors and celebrities come to the Brooklyn Children's Museum to read to children.

Next up on the kid's size W.O.R.D. UP! hot seat is Grammy-nominated artist Ky-Mani Marley, the son of music legend Bob Marley, who will be reading "My Little Island" by Franc Les-

Gang attack on S. Portland

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Five thieves jumped a 21-year-old at the corner of Lafayette and S. Portland avenues on Aug. 10, taking the man's cellphone and camera.

The victim said that he and a friend were walking toward the corner at 9:30 pm when a stranger approached and started chatting up his pal.

That's when four others descended on the duo, forcing them to hand over their property, police were told.

Short tempered

Three bare-legged thieves pulled a gun on a 24-year-old near the corner of Greene and Vanderbilt avenues on Aug. 15.

The victim said that he and his friends had reached the intersection at 5:15 am when the suspects—who were all sporting shorts—ran up, and one of the muggers had a pistol.

"You got something on you," a suspect asked before the thieves padded the victim down and ran off with his iPhone.

Mall rats

A lot of crooks were found shopping inside the frequently hit Atlantic Terminal Mall on Flatbush Avenue between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue this week. Here's the rundown:

• A 25-year-old shoplifter was arrested inside Target after swiping over \$500 in DVDs and CDs on Aug. 13.

• A sticky-fingered thief made off with a 29-year-old woman's wallet as she shopped for shoes inside DSW at 7:15 pm on Aug. 14.

• A 29-year-old told police she was perusing the aisles in Target on Aug. 12 when she put her wallet on a shelf for just a moment. It was gone seconds later.

• A thief snatched his hand in a woman's shoulder tote as she waited on line inside Victoria's Secret on Aug. 10, taking her wallet.

Burglar busy

A busy burglary crew hit three apartments inside a building on Cumberland Street between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues on Aug. 9. Here are the details:

• Someone forced open the window to a fifth-floor studio sometime after 5 am, removing an iPhone left on a desk.

• About \$3,800 worth of electronics and jewelry were removed from a sixth-floor apartment after the tenant left at 8 am.

• Thieves swiped an Apple computer and \$400 when they entered a fourth-floor apartment after 8:15 am. The 56-year-old tenant said that a window leading to the building's fire escape was open when he returned home.

Home raid

A thief was nabbed trying to swipe a tool from a Putnam Avenue home under renovation on Aug. 9.

A construction worker told police he was hip deep in work when he heard a noise coming from another room of the house between Irving Place and Downing Street.

When he went to investigate, he found the 37-year-old crook trying to sneak away with a \$200 grinder.

Realizing he had been discovered, the thief dropped the tool and ran off, only to be caught by cops a short time later.

Jared jack

A thief on something of a health kick made off with a woman's pocketbook on Aug. 13 during a stop at a Fulton Street Subway sandwich shop.

The victim said she was dining in the eatery between Clinton and Waverly avenues at 2:15 pm when she left her bag unattended for a few moments. That was all the time the fast-moving hoodlum needed to run off with her property, cops were told.

More bags gone

A thief ran off with a woman's handbag as she enjoyed her evening at a Myrtle Avenue nightclub on Aug. 13.

The 30-year-old woman said she left bag hanging off the back of her bar stool inside the watering hole between Waverly and Washington avenues when the thief snatched the purse at 6:50 pm and scrambled for the door.

The woman couldn't catch up with the thief, who used her plastic to buy a Met-Rocard, police said.

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A thief stretched his way into a Clinton Avenue office on Aug. 12, swiping a laptop computer sitting near the window.

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Bike swipe

A thief gentled a \$2,000 Cannondale bike left inside the hallway of a Carlton Avenue building on Aug. 10.

The 28-year-old cycling enthusiast admitted that he left the bike unlocked in a common area of the building between Park and Myrtle avenues at 12:10 am. When he went to retrieve it at 9:30 am, it was gone.

—Thomas Tracy

77TH PRECINCT
Prospect Heights

School daze

A burglar stole more than \$21,000 in electronic teaching tools from PS 571 on Underhill Avenue.

Employees at the school between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue said the "Calculator Tutor," "Fast Math" and "Kidspiration" computer programs, and the equipment that goes with them, were last seen in a classroom used for summer session on July 29.

Workers said they didn't realize the items were missing until recently.

Moto mayhem

A wayward driver slammed into a motorcyclist at the corner of Dean Street and Clason Avenue on Aug. 9—breaking the man's leg in the process—but didn't stick around long enough to swap information.

The 40-year-old chopper pilot was nearing the corner at 9:30 pm when a 1998 Toyota Avalon clipped his two-

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wheeler, causing him to fall on his side.

A woman exited the Toyota and asked if he was all right, but then jumped back in the vehicle and sped off before identifying herself.

Spirited away

A thief intercepted a tequila delivery on Washington Avenue on Aug. 10, swiping three cases of the hard stuff.

A worker for Pacific Wines & Spirits said that he left the booze in his car between Dean and Bergen streets at 1:30 pm and he returned 15 minutes later to find that someone had forced open his back door and taken the booze.

Double trouble

A sticky-fingered thief alighted inside a St. Johns Place restaurant on Aug. 6, when he looted two purses belonging to unsuspecting diners.

His victims were so engrossed in their meals at Franklin Park between Franklin and Clason avenues at 11:20 pm they never noticed the thief as he snaked his hand in one purse, plucking out an iPhone. The gripper then swiped the second woman's purse, which contained \$100, a sweater, her glasses and a passport, police said.

Cabbie raid

A thief broke into a yellow taxi cab parked on Flatbush Avenue on Aug. 4, taking \$64 and the cabbie's Pakistani passport.

The cabbie parked his 2008 cab between Sixth and St. Marks avenues at 2 am, but accidentally left it unlocked, he told authorities.

When he returned to the vehicle a few hours later, he realized that someone had rummaged through the vehicle.

Hamburgled

A fiendish fry-guy made off with an employee's wallet during a visit to an Atlantic Avenue McDonald's on Aug. 5.

The 22-year-old said that she had left her wallet in an employee work area in the back of the eatery at Vanderbilt Avenue just before 4:30 pm. She went to retrieve her wallet a short time later, but

someone had already helped themselves to it.

—Thomas Tracy

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO-Boerum Hill-Downtown

Stick up

A gun-toting thug made a guy hand over his cellphone on Aug. 10.

The victim told cops that he was at Fulton and Lawrence streets at around 5:50 am when his attacker approached and said, "Give me your s—."

The brand then clocked his quarry in the face with the gun, knocking him out for a moment and stole his phone.

Plymouth pilfer

A thief broke into a Plymouth Street apartment on Aug. 11 and stole an assortment of electronics.

The victim told cops that she had lost her Vinger Hill house between Hudson Avenue and Little Street at around 10 am. When she returned from work about 11 hours later, the A/C unit in her bedroom window had been forced in, and she was missing a digital camera, two Apple laptops, and an iPad.

—Stephen Brown

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(Minimum \$100 purchase)

Towns reads wrong book

By Thomas Tracy
The Brooklyn Paper

Rep. Ed Towns was not meant to be a bunch of kids last Friday.

Small rain clouds of confusion rolled over the Brooklyn Children's Museum in Crown Heights on Aug. 13 when the 27-year-old congressman, instead of reading the children's book, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," took an unexpected turn.

First, the 76-year-old Towns (D-Fort Greene), guessed correctly that young kids are terrible with telling time, so he showed up nearly 40 minutes late.

Then he read a different book, "The Veggie Book," "Growing Vegetable Soup." No, it wasn't, despite the title, a suggestion of what should be done with our library legislators, but a step-by-step guide on how one can grow vegetables and then cook them all up in a pot—a tale that got Towns's mouth watering.

"I'm getting hungry just thinking about it," he told about a dozen children and their families, as he read through the book a second time.

The children enjoyed the book, though they frequently accused Towns of the worst form of campaign violation: not sharing.

"Can we see the pictures?" asked little Maria-Jose Tisoc, the second person to remind the legislator that he was reading to a crowd, not just for his own enjoyment.

Towns's visit—a nice break from his oftentimes volatile campaign against challenger Kevin Powell—was part of the museum's W.O.R.D. UPI series, where dignitaries, authors and celebrities come to the Brooklyn Children's Museum to read to children.

Next up on the kid's size

W.O.R.D. UPI hot seat is Grammy-nominated artist K-Man Marley, the son of music legend Bob Marley, who will be reading "My Little Island" by Fela Sessé on Aug. 20.

W.O.R.D. UPI at the Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Avenue between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Crown Heights, (718) 733-4400]. For a list of readings, visit www.brooklynkids.org.



Rep. Ed Towns was supposed to read "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" Maria-Jose Tisoc and Amia Phillip, but instead read about vegetables.

She fought them off on 13th Street!

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope
Two men tried to mug a woman on 13th Street late on Aug. 9, but were sent running empty-handed when the scrappy victim fought back.

The would-be victim told cops that she was near Fourth Avenue at around 10 pm when two men sneaked up on her from behind and pushed her roughly to the ground.

The men tried to get her handbag, but the 29-year-old refused to let go. After a brief struggle, the men gave up and fled towards Third Avenue.

Hand job
A thief snatched the cell-phone right out of a woman's hand on Carroll Street on Aug. 13.

The 24-year-old victim told cops that she was near quiet Frisbe Place at around 9 pm when a 5-foot-perp ran up and snatched the Blackberry.

Cash carried
A thief snatched cash right out of a senior citizen's hand as she entered the R train station at Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street on Aug. 10.

The victim told cops that she was holding \$108 in her hand as she entered the station at around 10 pm when the thief made his move from behind.

No force was used, police said, but the thief was gone before the victim or her husband could get a good look at him.

Ouchi!
A man attacked another man on the B41 bus on Aug. 6—and the assault may have had something to do with the route's declining service.

Cops said that the thug got on the bus at the corner of Flatbush Avenue and Eastern Parkway at about 12:45 pm looking "agitated about something."

That's when he kicked a passenger and then punched the driver on the side of his head, bruising his face and eye.

The victim was taken to the Methodist Hospital, and the aggrieved rider fled.

Wheel bad
At least three vehicles were stolen or broken into last week.

A thief snatched a Chevy Impala from Third Street overnight on Aug. 13. The owner told cops that she'd parked it between Sixth and Seventh avenues at around 3 pm, but it was gone by 9:30

POLICE BLOTTER

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pm the next day.

A Vespa was swiped from First Street on Aug. 8. The owner told cops that he parked the motorcycle between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West at around 11:30 pm, but did not lock it up. It was gone the next morning.

A Prospect Park Zoo visitor returned to his car after petting the sheep at around 1:30 pm on Aug. 14 to find that the window had been smashed and an iPhone, a car stereo and various cards had been taken from the Passat sedan.

Store room
Two popular shops were burglarized last week. Here are the details:

A thief busted into a Seventh Avenue home and stole lots of cash and electronics. The tenant of the apartment, which is between the second and Third streets, told cops that he was not home between Aug. 7 and Aug. 14, when he returned to find that \$11,000, a guitar, video games, 500 movies and a computer had been taken.

Was the thief an accountant? A Third Avenue apartment was burglarized last week, with hundreds of dollars in jewelry on Aug. 12. The tenant in the unit, which is at 10th Street, told cops that he was not home between 10 am and 6 pm, when he discovered that the mailman's access lock had been busted and that all his stuff had been taken.

Two shoppers entered the American Apparel shop on Flatbush Avenue at around 5:30 pm on Aug. 8 and helped themselves to 25 dresses valued at more than \$1,300.

Broken home
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Bag snatch
A thief grabbed a woman's bag as she downed a slice at the Princess Pizzeria on Fifth Avenue on Aug. 10.

The woman told cops that she put the bag down for a moment at around 1:30 pm inside the restaurant, which is at 14th Street, but realized it was seconds later to find it gone. She lost a wallet and cards.

77TH PRECINCT
Prospect Heights
School daze
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Motorcycle mayhem
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68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights
Booked him
A thief knocked down a man on Seventh Avenue and stole his book bag on Aug. 11.

The victim told cops that he was near 73rd Street at around 2:45 am when the jerk him and said, "Don't turn around and drop your book bag," which is a tough imperative to follow, if you are a grammar stickler.

The victim complied with the gist of the request, and the thug fled with the bag, which contained clothes, cash, and ID.

B and E
At least two homes were broken into for computers on Aug. 9. Here's a roundup:

Perps broke into a building on Seventh Avenue between 67th and 68th streets at around 12:50 am, getting in through the basement before swiping \$5,300 worth of electronics, including a TV, three laptops and an Apple desktop computer.

Hours later, perps forced their way into an apartment on 70th Street between 12th and 13th avenues and stole a computer, camera and jewelry. The tenant said that the crime must have occurred at around 8:30 pm.

Wham bam
Two men beat up and mugged a man on 10th Avenue early on Aug. 9.

The victim told cops that he was leaving a restaurant and walking toward 64th Street at around 5:20 am when the men accosted him, punched him repeatedly in the face, and robbed him for his wallet. The perps then fled.

10th Avenue and 64th Street
— Roxanna Asgarian

62ND PRECINCT
Bensonhurst
Gunpoint rob
Two thugs pulled a gun on

HEROES OF THE WEEK

Scooter couple chases thugs!

A scooter-riding couple are the heroes of the week in Carroll Gardens after witnessing the theft of a cell phone and then chasing down the perps on their motorized cycle on Aug. 10.

The victim of the theft told cops that she was walking her dog while chatting on her cell phone near the corner of Hoyt and Degraw streets at around 8:30 pm. That's when her attention was diverted to the mound of feces that had just been produced by her dog, whose breed was

not provided by cops. As she bent to do her civic duty, a teenager rushed over and grabbed the phone from her hand.

But the thug and his accomplice didn't get far before the Vespa-riding man and woman went on the offensive, chasing the perps towards Union Street.

That's where the woman jumped off the scooter, grabbed the phone out of the 13-year-old's hands and hopped back onto the two-wheeler.

Cops later arrested the teen, and his 16-year-old thug pal, in a canvass of the area.

A 22-year-old man during a harrowing Aug. 12 robbery on 70th Street, police said. The victim told cops that he was between 14th and 15th avenues at 1:45 am when the thieves ran up to him, pulled a weapon, and swiped his wallet and some electronics.

Marshall's hit
Burglars raided an 86th Street Marshall's on Aug. 16, taking about \$50,000. Workers said that an exit door to the store between Bay 19th and Bay 20th streets was forced open sometime after 4 am. Thieves made their way to the department store's security room, where they disabled the surveillance system.

They then went to an upstairs office, where they emptied the safe, cops were told.

Knocked out
A heavy-handed 40-year-old knocked out a teenager with one punch during an Aug. 14 rap at of 84th Street and 15th Avenue.

The teen said he was arguing with the older man at 11:25 pm when the suspect shot out his fist.

The next thing he knew, he woke up with a bump.

Ungrateful
A 22-year-old hooligan pulled a knife on another man at the corner of Kings Highway and W. Sixth Street on Aug. 13—cutting her arm in the process—but didn't have long to enjoy his newfound spoils.

The woman said she was on her way home when the thug jumped her between 21st Avenue and Bay Parkway at 11:40 pm. He yanked the bag off her arm and fled, only to be arrested a short time later.

Double time
A pair of ne'er-do-wells held up three people within

— Thomas Tracy



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'House' divided!

Jail will reopen, but not be doubled in size

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

The city has scrapped a plan to double the size of the Brooklyn House of Detention in Boerum Hill — but did vote last week to get the 759-bed jail operating at full capacity within a year.

In a surprise move, the Department of Correction ended its controversial \$440-million expansion plan for the facility at Smith Street and Atlantic Avenue — opting for the very thing that the city had argued against all along: an expanded jail on Rikers Island.

The city now says that its new plan will cost taxpayers \$415-million less than expanding the Brooklyn and Queens locations together.

"This plan allows us to build critically needed capacity and support space faster and less expensively, with less uncertainty over land-

use issues and with lower construction and operating costs," said Correction Commissioner Dora Schirio. "It is the highest and best use of existing facilities, and it conserves valuable city land for other purposes."

The announcement comes as a relief for those who were concerned about an expanded jail in an already tight footprint. And it puts to rest a bitter political fight that became tied up in last year's mayoral battle. Then-Comptroller Bill Thompson had blocked Mayor Bloomberg's hiring of a firm to design the expanded jail, so the mayor sued him.

But Thompson lost the election and, just before leaving office, he quietly rubber-stamped the design contract.

The city's latest decision to reopen the jail, yet not expand it, comes with some downside: the expansion plan did



The city has bailed on its plan to double the capacity of the Brooklyn House of Detention on Atlantic Avenue — but it will reopen next year.

call for retail on the ground floor of the dead space not only on the block between Smith Street and Boerum Place, but also on the sides of the building.

"One of the sweeteners... was putting retail on the bottom floor facade," said Rob Perris, district manager of Community Board 2, which opposed the expansion plan, but liked the retail space. "At the time of our vote, we focused on the expansion. But the space could have been a positive development to maintain retail continuity on Atlantic Avenue."

Perris said that CB2 would be consulted about the new plans to fill the House of D, but Correction spokeswoman Sharmen Stein promised that a community advisory group would be set up to consult about what's going to happen over the next year. It's unclear who will be on that panel.

In the meantime, the Department of Correction will move ahead with a new \$600-million facility on Rikers Island, which won't be completed until 2017, long after the Brooklyn locations are filled out next year, Stein said.



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'Pool' party pooper

JellyNYC's cash woes sink free concert series

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

The final concert of the free Jelly Pool Party series has been canceled because the promoter has run into financial problems.

JellyNYC, which has been promoting The Pool Parties at East River State Park in Williamsburg, has defaulted on its payments to the Open Space Alliance to produce the shows, forcing the park group to pull the plug on the Aug. 29 date, a show that would have featured Delorean and Dominique Young Unique.

The announcement will not endanger concerts scheduled for this Thursday and this Sunday, Aug. 22. In addition, paid shows scheduled in September featuring Pavement, Modest Mouse, and Belle and Sebastian are on.

Sources said that Jelly had difficulty paying its vendors over the past year and a half, bouncing several checks and amassing debts of tens of thousands of dollars.

That worried the Open Space Alliance and the state



Doorhood headlined the first show at the 2010 Pool Parties. The Aug. 19 show has been canceled.

parks department, which had ordered Jelly to pay its bills or risk losing its stake in the waterfront series next year.

"[The Open Space Alliance] can no longer cover both the costs of putting on these events, equipment,

labor, and payments to the state for use of their park, and Jelly's substantial debt," said Open Space Alliance board member Adam Perlmutter. "Our primary concern is improving open space in North Brooklyn, and we will not endanger our mission by putting the finances and reputation of our organization at risk by allowing Jelly to slide on its financial obligations."

The loss could be a significant blow to the Williamsburg-based music promotion company — and, indeed, the entire concert-based economy and lifestyle of the neighborhood.

JellyNYC founded the Pool Parties five years ago with the Open Space Alliance at McCarty Park Pool and secured exclusive rights to promote and book bands for the event last year after an aggressive appeal to Sen. Chuck Schumer to save the music shows.

This year, attendance has dropped, though organizers attribute lower turnout to insufficiently high temperatures and lower wattage of a series

that once brought in Band of Horses, MGMT, and Yo La Tengo.

The company has had a rocky summer — at one point, the state parks agency canceled a Sunday concert due to the threat of inclement weather, a move that cost Jelly thousands of dollars. Also on the red side of the ledger was a break-in at Jelly's offices last month.

Jelly co-founder Alexander Kane declined to speak about the situation, saying, "When we're ready to talk about next summer and later this summer, we'll do that."

But the company's attention may already be drifting away from the East River. In July, Jelly launched a six-concert series at a vacant Wythe Avenue lot called, "The Rock Yard," which will continue through September and held a block party last week on the South Street Seaport, hosted by the record label, Mad Decent.

And JellyNYC co-owner Sarah Hooper hinted that the company was pondering abandoning the Pool Parties altogether, telling National Public Radio, "I kind of hate the Pool Parties now. They make us all really sad when we go to see. And then I go to a Mad Decent block party or our things at Rock Yard, and it's exactly how it used to be."

CASKET...

Continued from page 1
sis' letter," he boasted this week. "My company has no assets, and I don't sell many shirts. Who cares?"

Well, Matthews International, the publicly traded funeral supply company based in Pittsburgh.

"We don't sell casket trinkets," Heidi Knapp, a human resources administrator with Matthews, said gravely.

If it is true that only the dead know Brooklyn, it is also true that Brooklyn-themed souvenirs are a very lively market indeed. Slap the word "Brooklyn" on something and it sells, as the folks from Neighborhoods have long known and the owners of the soon-to-be-Brooklyn Nets will no doubt discover.

The prospect for riches and notoriety was not initially part of Comorau's plan. For three decades, he worked as a software engineer for the company, which remains based at Union Street between Third Avenue and

Nevins Street next to the Gowanus Canal.

But when Matthews came in, Comorau was sucked. On his way out, he grabbed a case or two of the old T-shirts that South Brooklyn Casket Company owner Harry Pontone would give away to funeral homes and other industry insiders.

The shirts have an unmistakable macabre charm. "I liked the shirts," said Brighton Beach-born Comorau. "This is classic Brooklyn. Everyone who sees it, likes it. This was a part of Brooklyn."

When he ran out of his original supply, Comorau did a redesign and began selling the shirts and hoodies in earnest in 2008.

Pontone, who still operates the Brooklyn factory for Matthews, said he knew nothing of Comorau's legistic stab in the back.

"We never sold shirts," he said. "What advantage would that give me? I think it's ridiculous. How can be



The South Brooklyn Casket Company is now owned by the global tomb maker Matthews, though that multi-national firm is not behind the souvenir website.

use the name 'Brooklyn Casket'?"

Funeral home operators were perplexed, too.

"I don't know if it is macabre, but I think it's a little unusual," said Salvatore "Buddy" Scotto, owner of

Scotto Funeral Home in Carroll Gardens, a longtime customer of the 79-year-old casket firm.

Besides an inspiration for merchandisers, the South Brooklyn Casket Company has served as a muse for area artists, most notably in the song, "The South Brooklyn Casket Company," by the band Shwayze.

"I couldn't remember what I did — something about a casket," he remembered. "But I know it'll come back to haunt me!" South Brooklyn Casket Company.

Of course, if that could fit on a T-shirt, Comorau might start selling it, too.

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OUR OPINION

The latest garbage

Users of Prospect Park have long complained that the agencies responsible for ensuring that the greenspace remain clean have failed to do their job.

Now there's proof.

Over the past 20 months, not a single litterer has received a ticket from a Park Enforcement Patrol officer.

Not one summons—during a rash of filth in the park so egregious that we created a regular column on it called "Meadows of Shame."

Interestingly, during the same period, Parks Enforcement Patrol officers issued 147 summonses to dog owners for pups off-leash.

That's 147 tickets to the owners of roving rovers, and zero for the poorly mannered jerks who remain hellbent on leaving the park in worse condition than they found it.

Make no mistake; we're not de-

Writing summonses only to dog owners and not to litterers is clearly a dereliction of duty by these Park enforcement officers—or perhaps they're simply being told to ignore trash and go after pets.

fending dog owners who violate leash laws.

But taken together, this 147-0 shut-out is clearly a dereliction of duty by these "PEP" officers.

Worse, it could be an indication that the enforcement agents have been directed by the administrators of the park to simply ignore the trash-tossers who have turned the city's most-important park into the town dump.

There are certainly worse crimes

out there, but there is something particularly heinous and disrespectful about discarding trash in a park—one of the few public havens that cooped-up urbanites have.

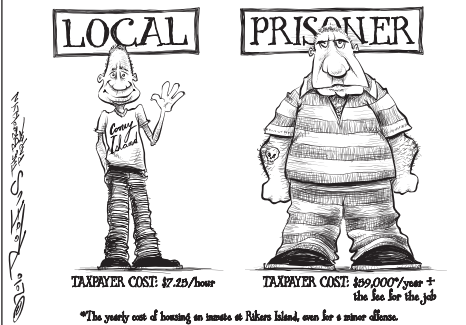
And this particular oasis has numerous overseers, from the Parks Department to the NYPD, whose officers have written just four litter summonses compared to 50 off-leash summonses during the same period.

The seemingly endless spate of garbage atrocities in the park—coupled with the new evidence that park officials are doing nothing to aggressively fight the guilty parties—is an outrage that requires immediate attention at the highest levels.

Someone needs to take out the trash—and we're not only talking about the garbage.

ALL DRAWN OUT

MARTY'S "CHEAP" CHAIN GANG LABOR VS. HIRING LOCAL



LETTERS

Lock-gluing crusader fills the mailbag

To the editor,

I'm writing in response to your article about the Williamsburg bike lock bandit ("A sticky situation: Someone is gluing cyclists' locks on Bedford Avenue," Aug. 13). When dedicated biker like your editor, Gersh Kuntzman, finds his Kryptonite lock jammed with Krazy Glue and has to call a locksmith for \$200 to free his \$700 bike, then I suspect your biased publication will make a more aggressive move to shut down the nut-case vigilante messing with people's locked bikes out there.

Turn this public menace over to the police now instead of allowing yourselves to serve as an access-

ory to continuing street crime. Why are you shielding this person? Whose side are you on?

Gene Kahn,

Windsor Terrace

Editor's note: We received an enormous amount of criticism about our decision to not reveal the identity of the bike lock gluer. We made that decision simply because we did not witness the crime in question. Absent that, we felt that our duty was to inform the public that someone might be going around gluing cyclists' locks.

• • •

To the editor,

The bike lock controversy is not just a parking issue. Bicyclists ignore public safety: they don't obey traffic laws, they don't stop at red lights, they ride on the sidewalks, they ride against traffic. All of these things are illegal. As a pedestrian, my personal safety is at risk. I've had some very close calls. The city can rein in this problem by issuing traffic tickets for every violation. Hit the bikers in their pocketbooks.

Not only will it make streets safer for pedestrians, it will also be a good source of revenue for the city.

Kelly Grill, Cobble Hill

Raccoon shock

To the editor,

I was happy to read the article about raccoons in Greenwood Heights, but dismayed about my neighbor's "shocking" solution to our dilemma ("Electric" company," Aug. 6).

I'm concerned about how an electrified fence will affect other wildlife. Won't the robins, juncos, cardinals, finches, hummingbirds, wrens, catbirds, warblers, monarch butterflies, praying mantises, lady bugs, moths and countless other loving creatures needlessly suffer deaths because of a fence that ultimately will not deter the obstinate raccoon?

My cats and dogs play in my garden and befriended the raccoons, opossums and feral cats. My pets have never gotten sick and I am vigilant about washing my hands after gardening.

One morning, I awoke to the evidence that a raccoon broke into my kitchen by tearing the screen from the back door—apparently my cats chased them out. I replaced the screen with a pet-proof one, cheaply available from Lowe's. Very easily done!

What I've learned about hav-

ing a garden in this area for the last 11 years is that the animals will not overrun the area—killing or removing them will only create space for others to move in. Maybe the "trap-neuter-return" approach we use with feral cats is the way to go with the raccoons?

As human beings, it is important to remember that the creatures we share this planet with have a wish to thrive and feed their families just like we do.

Carmen Pujols, Park Slope

Dead Sea stole

To the editor,

The headline of your recent article ("Mud-slinging on Montague: Protectors: Ricky's cream backs Israel's 'illegal' act," July 16) casts doubt on whether the Israeli occupation of the West Bank is actually illegal.

Even if one wants to argue this point, as some do, and even if one argues that the settlement where the Ahava factory is located is essential to Israel's security, that would not justify extracting rich mineral resources from the Dead Sea then marketing them as "made in Israel" while

sharing none of the profits with Palestinians.

Your characterization of the Middle East conflict as "centuries-old" glosses over the fact that the current conflict is based on very specific, recent, and ongoing injustices. Brooklyn For Peace is committed to working for a negotiated solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Ahava's continued exploitation of the Dead Sea minerals (it can also be called "stealing") only serves to exacerbate the conflict.

Charlotte Phillips

The writer is the chairperson for the Brooklyn For Peace network.

Integrity?

To the editor,

I know it's all tongue and check, but the story about our Buy-a-Run Day fundraiser should have been totally positive ("Kickball scandal! Teams can buy runs in season's final game!" online, Aug. 13). We are trying to do something nice by raising money for the Greenpoint Reformed Church's food pantry, yet you cast some doubt on this. I wonder how much money that will cost the food bank.

Please write something nice about this fundraiser.

Kevin Dailey

The writer is the commissioner of the Brooklyn Kickball League.

Editor's note: This newspaper supports the efforts of Brooklyn Kickball to raise badly needed funds for the food pantry, but also felt obligated to give a voice to those who believe that giving teams the ability to buy runs in regular-season games raises serious questions about the integrity of America's pastime, kickball.

Great rant!

To the editor,

Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) was correct in going ballistic at Republican obstruction tactics ("The Midwood Mouth!" Aug. 6).

The health of our 9-11 first responders and rescue workers should be a non-controversial measure and should not be made into a Christmas tree for right-wing crackpot amendments.

The GOP-the party of No, must be taught a lesson by brave public servants like Weiner, Minnesota's Al Franken, and Florida's Alan Grayson so that the public can be informed that they will never

hear the truth from Beck/Hannity/Rush on Fox News).

Then an informed public can remove the Republican obstructionists so that 9-11 workers and the unemployed can get the benefits they deserve.

David Pecararo, Queens

Bike lane is bad

To the editor,

When will the reduction of quality of life for Prospect Park West residents ever going to stop?

Since the city installed the bike lane, bikers are no longer yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks. Instead, the city has installed new yellow signs telling us—the pedestrians!—to look both ways when crossing, even when we have the "Walk" sign.

Yesterday, I observed three young mothers with their strollers, crossing with the light at Third Street and about to cross the bike lane when a female cyclist totally ignored them and went ploughing through, just missing them.

And has anybody considered what is going to happen in the winter when it snows?

Jasmine Melzer,

Park Slope

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 20-26, 2010



Pieces by Abdi Farah, the reality show winner, include from left to right, "Libation," "Ichabod" and "Home." Our critic found them so-so.

Work of schlock

Reality TV artist raises questions about Brooklyn Museum

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

An exhibit in the Brooklyn Museum showcasing the winner of a reality TV show is now open to the public—and contrary to many fears, the walls of the borough's most-prestigious institution have not crumbled, though they have weakened.

"Work of Art: Abdi Farah," while inconsistent over all, isn't all that bad considering the artist's rapid rise into the public eye. Given how quickly Farah will likely vanish from the public attention granted him by the Bravo TV series, he at least deserves a moment for that same public to consider his work on its own merits—before turning to the larger superficial issues raised by the existence of this show in the first place.

The most striking and provocative piece in the exhibit is "Libation," which features two sculptures of figures wearing gym shorts and Nike high-tops splayed out on the floor. The bodies conjure memories of people shot for their Air Jordans and the fetishization of brands in urban America.

But in a larger sense, "Libation"—especially given the setting—can be interpreted as a commentary on the many issues of commercialization surrounding the "Work of Art" series.

Unfortunately, the two sculptures are the strongest indication of Farah's potential as an artist, while the rest of the material doesn't yield much more than a shrug of the shoulders.

Taken as a whole, the exhibit evokes



Art star: Abdi Farah, the winner of Bravo TV's "Work of Art: The Next Great Artist," now has a show at the Brooklyn Museum. That's weird.

a visit to the morgue; there are so many supine figures and body bags that a museum goer might not think she's checking out an exhibit related to "Work of Art," but rather an artistic interpretation of "The Wire" or "Dexter."

All 11 pieces tackle urban life—something not at all out of place in the Brooklyn

Museum—but some fail in fully communicating a message. "Tuskagee"—a painting of two bodies radiating red—is connected only in title to the mid-century racist syphilis research done in the name of science.

But as interesting it is to see Farah's development as an artist during what must

ART
"Work of Art: Abdi Farah" at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000), now through Oct. 17. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

have been an extraordinarily intense (and micromanaged) series of months while filming the TV show, what the exhibit means for the Brooklyn Museum is just as compelling a topic.

In an introduction by Charles Desmarais, the museum's deputy director of art, the institution openly wrestles with the decision to participate in "Work of Art," and attempts to justify it.

"Work of Art" is a direct descendant of the juried-exhibition tradition (of 19th-century France)," Desmarais writes. Perhaps, but if reality TV is a descendant, it is a grotesque and disfigured one—more an inbred relative than the inheritor of centuries of artistic criticism.

Desmarais conveys the reservations the Brooklyn Museum likely felt when considering this endeavor, describing it as an "experiment in serving the museum's audience in new ways."

"Reality television... offers a dynamic new way for viewers to encounter a work of art," he says.

It remains to be seen how many people will actually show up to physically encounter Farah's small exhibit—it is quite possible that people prefer making superficial judgments from their couch rather than engaging with an amateur artist having his first taste of celebrity.

But even if visitors do flock to the Brooklyn Museum, many will likely be left with a sour taste in their mouths.

Farah is not primarily to blame for the feeling of emptiness that accompanies reality TV's successful invasion of the Brooklyn Museum. Countless artists have teetered on the edge of commercialism—heck, the Andy Warhol estate is in a Brooklyn hell, in the same space where the Takashi Murakami show was last year.

But Farah lacks the key ingredient for these two giants of commercial art: irony. In fact, the arrival of "Work of Art" is deadly serious; it raises questions about where the Brooklyn Museum is headed now that it has decided to embrace reality television—a form of entertainment almost completely devoid of artistry.

MUSIC

Vance is back

He's been in the music business for more than 50 years, but Kenny Vance's career is as strong as ever, with gigs booked across the country well into next year, new fans joining the party, and new music still coming out, including last year's "Oceans of Time."

But Vance, one of the founding members of the seminal rock group Jay and the Americans, still has time to come home to Brooklyn, as he'll do on Aug. 24 when the Flatbush-bred singer heads to Asser Levy Seaside Park for a sweet doo-wop show.

"I like playing there because it's my hometown," said Vance, who climbed the Billboard charts back in the day with songs like "She Cried," "Come a Little Bit Closer," and "This Magic Moment"—timeless gems of teenage romance. "When we perform today, the audience is transported back in time. They treat us like we're teen idols and gives us an extra jolt of energy."

Kenny Vance and the Pianettes at Asser Levy Park [Ocean Parkway at Surf Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 469-1912], Aug. 24 at 7:30 pm. Free. —Meredith Deliso

DRINKING

Strange brew

Justin Israelson and Gary Jonas aren't so great at homebrewing.

"We always complicate the matter," said Israelson, who operates Sycamore Bar and Flower-shop with Jonas. "Instead of just doing what you're supposed to do, it's, 'Let's add this ingredient in, and of course, it messes it up.'"

To avoid that problem, the duo has invited 20 "beer professionals" to show off their stuff in the first ever Brooklyn Wort competition on Aug. 21 at their Flatbush bar.

Like a U2 concert at Madison Square Garden, the sign-up list filled up almost instantaneously.

"There's tons and tons and tons of homebrewers in Brooklyn," said Ben Granger of Park Slope's Bierkraft, who'll be one of six judges deciding the \$800 prize. "That, combined with the fact that there's actual money involved."

Israelson is expecting Belgian-style bitters, pale ales, and IPAs at his first competition. And beer lovers won't miss an ounce, either, as the ticket price includes samples of all 20 concoctions, as well as a plate full of barbeque.

Brooklyn Wort at Sycamore Bar and Flower-shop [1118 Cortelyou Rd. near Westmoreland Road, (347) 240-5850], Aug. 21 at 5 pm (the 2:30 pm tasting is sold out). Tickets \$20. For info, visit www.brooklynwort.com. —Meredith Deliso

SHOPPING

Subway 'star'

Lola Star is transforming the Stillwell Avenue subway station in Coney Island into a sparkly pink paradise.

After four years of negotiations with the MTA, Dianna Carlin finally opened her boutique inside the station's Surf Avenue entrance.

Carlin's Lola Star shop on the Boardwalk, between 12th Street and Stillwell Avenue, focuses on Coney Island-themed T-shirts and beach-friendly gear, but the new subway store is all about funky fashion. The awesome accessories, many of which are designed by Carlin herself, include quirky plastic tote bags (\$12), skull earrings (\$35) and wallets featuring drawings of enchanting cartoon ladies (\$36).

The shop itself has plenty of pizzazz thanks to a black chandelier and a black-and-white checkerboard floor.

"It's how I always wanted my store to look," Carlin said. "It was really good to fulfill my vision."

The subway store is here to stay thanks to a 10-year lease, but the Boardwalk boutique's future isn't as clear. Central Amusement International, the operator of Luna Park, recently asked Carlin and other Boardwalk merchants to explain why they should keep their spots on the Boardwalk next year.

Lola Star Boutique [Surf and Stillwell avenues in Coney Island, (800) 362-5116]. For info, visit www.lolastar.com. —Michelle De Meglio

The 411 on Abdi Farah

By Stephen Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Who he is: Abdi Farah and why does he have an exhibition at the internationally renowned Brooklyn Museum?

Farah got his 15 minutes of artistic fame after beating 13 other artists in Bravo's "Work of Art" reality show, a controversial, "Top Chef"-style competition.

He didn't only win it because of his art.

Throughout the show, Farah made fans with his well-mannered demeanor, always hovering above the drama that gives reality shows their complete and utter lack of reality.

Yet despite his outer calm, Farah's art consistently wrestled with issues of race and urban life in a very vivid and forceful way.

"[Farah] is technically proficient. There is a lot of humanity in his work," said China Chow, one of the judges on the show. "There is a lot of gratitude in his work, and it comes across."

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SATURDAY August 21



Yard party

Just because BKLYN Yard closed doesn't mean the fun isn't continuing. This time, Asobi Seksu — Yuki Chikudate on keyboard and James Hanna on guitar — plus the market's artisans will reconvene across the street from the former Yard space. So with music, there'll be plenty of food from Greenpoint vendors who lose their marketplace when the city shut it down.

6-9 pm. Asobi Seksu at the new Yard space at 383 Carroll St. (between Nevins and Bond streets) (Williamsburg). Tickets \$10 (\$8 at the door). For info, visit www.meandredproductions.com.

SUNDAY August 22

Butt out!

It's not often that we send you to a children's book reading, but you have to love Artie Bennett's "The Butt Book," which opens up with the line, "Eyes and ears are much respected, but the butt has been neglected." He's right, but this great kids book certainly will change a few minds about that other important body part, which has been the butt of too many jokes, including this one.

11 am. Babbo's Books (242 Prospect Park West in Windsor Terrace, (718) 788-3475). www.babbos-books.com.



TUESDAY August 24



Bark & ride

It's a big night at Coney, where the Cyclones invite you to bring your dog to the game against the pesky Hudson Valley Renegades and get your best friend microchipped. After, head over to the Cyclone roller coaster and get a discounted ride if you show up in vampire makeup or just make a convincing howl (dogs don't count).

7 pm. Cyclones at MCU Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 7th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497). "Full Moon Rides" at the Cyclone (834 Surf Ave. at W. 10th Street in Coney Island, (718) 265-2100).

WEDNESDAY August 25

Last pig out

Summer's winding down, but don't let it go by with a whimper. Send it out with a carnivorous bang with the quintessential season tradition — the barbecue — at Good Company's BBQ Blowout. This month's blowout features Carri Garden's hotpot Frankie Spuntino, serving up simple yet flavorful Italian fare.

Andrew W.K. (pictured), the token pig of party rock, will provide the tunes.

7 pm. BBQ Blowout at Good Company (10 Hope St. between Roosevelt and Havemeyer streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7791). \$5. For info, visit www.fdgny.com.

FRIDAY August 27



Real thriller

All summer long, your kids have been reading (thanks to the Brooklyn Public Library's Summer Reading program), so now it's time to let the tots butt loose with a Michael Jackson Dance Party at the Central Branch. There'll be dancing, singing and more — plus costumes. And it's all free.

2:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, AUG. 20

GREENPOINT FLEA MARKET: noon-8 pm. Greenpoint Reformed Church (138 Milon St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-3941).

FILM, "ALICE IN THE CITIES": Films directed and selected by Benny and Josh Salda. \$7.50-\$12. 2, 4, 30, 5, 9, 30 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org.

FORGOTTEN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Featuring Hall of Famer Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka, and others. \$20. 5 pm. MCA (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 7th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497). www.ringfire.com.

MUSIC, REGGAE SINGER KY-MAE: Son of legendary Bob Marley performs as part of Summer Groove 2010. Tickets \$40 (includes food). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Eastern Street in Williamsburg, (718) 382-3770). www.brooklynkids.org.

TASTY BITS COMEDY: 7 pm. Peter's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 382-3770). www.petercandystore.com.

COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Nick Turner (College Humor) and Jason Saeed (DC Comedy Festival). Free. 8 pm. Cocoloco (66 Greenpoint Ave. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint, (917) 807-0495). www.myspace.com/cocoloco.

MUSIC, TULUVU AND DONNA CUMBERBATCH: Part of the "Jazz in the Garden" series. \$15. 8 pm and 9:30 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-2976). www.bsec.org.

THEATER, "SPACEMEN FROM SPACE": Based on the Bionics of the 1930s and '40s. \$18. 8 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 707-6189). www.bricktheater.com.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven. \$35. \$30 senior. \$15 student. 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 634-2083). www.bargemusic.org.

THEATER, "PLAYTHINGS OF THE GODS": A series of short amusement on love and hate between Man and God. 8 pm. Christ Church (320 Clinton St. at Kane St. in Cobble Hill, (718) 350-1265).

MUSIC, ETHAN LIFTON: Jazz blues, country. 8 pm. Barbes (376 North St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177). www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, O'DEATH, THE GOD-DAMN RATTLESNAKE, JONNY CORINDAWG: \$10. 8 pm. Rock Shop (249 Fourth Ave. between Prospect and Carroll streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740). therockshopnyc.com.

OPERA, "AMOR AND PSYCHE": \$18. 8 pm. Christ Church Cobble Hill (320 Clinton St. at Kane Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 350-1265).



Wild child: Juliette Lewis — that Juliette Lewis — will play the Music Hall of Williamsburg on Aug. 21.

Cobble Hill, (718) 624-0083). www.cobblehill.org.

FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS: Spectacular fireworks display directly over the Boardwalk. Free. 9:30 pm. Coney Island Boardwalk (Jardine Ave. at W. 100th Street in Coney Island, (212) NEW YORK).

MUSIC, GHOST TRAIN ORCHESTRA: Jazz. 10 pm. Barbes (376 North St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177). www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

MUSIC, LIFTED: \$8. 11 pm. Spike Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737). www.spikehill.com.

MUSIC, KARAOKE: Free. Midnight. Union Hall (702 Union St. in Williamsburg, (718) 638-6400). www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, DANCE FIGHT: \$8. Midnight. Spike Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737). www.spikehill.com.

SAT, AUG. 21

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB: Group runs for fun, mediate and adventure runners. Free. 8 am. Barbes (376 North St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177). www.brooklynroadrunners.org.

TOUR, NOSTALGIA TRAIN: Take a double dose of nostalgia with plenty of rides on the vintage trains to Coney Island. The museum still has seats available. Call for fees, call for times. New York Transit Museum (Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street in Downtown, (718) 694-4975). www.nytm.org/museum.

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, ASOBI SEKSU: Featuring food provided by former Greenpoint

Food Market vendor. \$15 in advance. 2:18 at the door. 4-6 pm. 383 Carroll St. (between Nevins and Bond streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7791). www.fdgny.com.

MUSIC, IN PERFORMANCE JAZZ WORKSHOP: Free. 6:30 pm. Sam Levinson Theater at Brooklyn College (2900 Bedford Avenue between Hill Place and Campus Road in Midwood, (718) 375-5510).

MUSIC, APOLLO RUN LAUREKS, GHOST GHOST, EL MAY: \$10. 7:30 pm. Rock Shop (249 Fourth Ave. between Prospect and Carroll streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740). therockshopnyc.com.

THEATER, "DEVILS": The true story of Grendel, a priest who was tortured and executed after nuns accused him of being in league with demons. Starring Eric O'Leary. \$18. 8 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 707-6189). www.bricktheater.com.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: 8 pm. See Friday, Aug. 20.

MUSIC, PAUL GEREMIA: Jazz, country blues. \$12 (\$10 in advance). 8 pm. Jalepsy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Williamsburg, (718) 395-3214). www.jalepsy.biz.

MUSIC, JULIETTE LEWIS: \$15 in advance. \$18 at the door. 9 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400). www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com.

MUSIC, FLOATING KABARETT: \$5. 10:30 pm. Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500). www.galapagosartspace.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: Brooklyn's answer to Union Square. 9 am-4 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street at Flatbush Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

http://

Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

Slope, (212) 788-7900). cmcy.org.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: Free. 9 am-5 pm. PS 321 schoolyard (Seventh Avenue and First Street in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100). www.ps321nyc.net.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Free. Noon-8 pm. Artists and Fleas (129 N. Sixth St. between Union Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7791). www.artistsandfleas.com.

OTHER

READING, SKETCHES AND STORYTELLING: Featuring cartoonist George O'Connor. 10:30 am. Greenlight Bookstore (686 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0000). about.storereading.blogspot.com.

FILM, "SMALL CHANGE": Directed by Benny and Josh Salda. \$7.50-\$12. 2, 4, 30 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org.

BROOKLYN WOLF: Twenty homebrewers vie for a \$1,000 cash prize in this homebrewing competition, where you too can sample the concoctions. \$20 (includes beer, samples and plate of food). 2:30 pm and 5 pm. Sycamore (1118 Convent Rd. between Bedford and Westminister roads in Ditmars Park, (347) 240-5850). www.sycamorebrewery.com.

READING, FORT GREENE PARK SUMMER LITERARY FESTIVAL: Featuring young writers and established Caribbean poets. 3 pm. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center (Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 724-1818).

FILM, "DADDY LONGLEGS": Directed by Benny and Josh Salda. \$7.50-\$12. 4:30 and 9:15 pm. BAM Rose Cinema (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129). www.bam.org.

FILM, "THE PRINCESS BRIDE": \$5. 5 pm. Peter Jay Sharp Theater (2537 Broadway at 25th Street in New York, (212) 844-5400).

FILM, "HATTI'S HIDDEN TREASURES": Free. 6-9 pm. St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (917) 771-7935).

SUN, AUG. 22

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB: 9 am. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

SUNDAY BEST: DJ dance party. \$12. \$8 before 4 pm with rsvp. 3-7 pm. See 9 DAYS on page 10

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Bushwick Paper, Greenpoint Paper, Williamsburg Paper.

NORTH BROOKLYN ZONE
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Lipton tease!

New songs will make you laugh

By Meredith Deliso
The Brooklyn Paper

Ethan Lipton can't play anything worth a damn.

For years, the playwright would hear songs in his head, the arrangements as intricate as his humorous lyrics. His lack of instrumentation didn't prevent them from sharing these songs, though, as he would sing them accompanied only by a microphone, introducing himself as Ethan Lipton and His Orchestra to the crowd, which would laugh appropriately. Eventually, he found his orchestra — well, a three-piece — so his words could have the arrangements he always heard in his head.

"I write songs on my way to things. I write songs walking my dog, riding my bike, and in the

MUSIC

Ethan Lipton and His Orchestra at Barbès (176 Ninth St. near South Avenue in Park Slope, 718) 965-9177) Aug. 20 at 8 p.m. Suggested donation, \$10. For info, visit www.ethanlipton.com.

ally, he found his orchestra — well, a three-piece — so his words could have the arrangements he always heard in his head.

"I write songs on my way to things. I write songs walking my dog, riding my bike, and in the

shower," said the Red Hook-based Lipton. "Songs are my release from the world."

Indeed, his sophomore album, "Honker," is a collection of sardonic, outpoken songs drawn from everyday life, from the Internet to people treating their cats like people to a sweet ditty about riding his bike over the Brooklyn Bridge, "breathing the air," all set to a laid-back lounge groove with flecks of folk, jazz, and country.

"The music that I write is often dealing with the mundane, the exalted parts of the mundane, and the



Ethan Lipton brings his lounge sound to Barbès on Aug. 20.

crappy parts as well," said Lipton. "There's a kind of everyday-ness of the subjects that I'm drawn to."

A well of observations, Lipton is never in short supply of new words and music. At every show, he and his band — comprised of Eben Levy on guitar, Ian Riggs on bass, and Vito Dietele on sax — play a new song to keep themselves on their toes, and their next one, on Aug. 20 at Barbès in Park Slope, will be no exception.

"When playing something for the first time, it always scares the hell out of you," said Lipton. "That energy is exciting, and is good for the show overall. A lot of our songs have a theatrical quality — it's not a passive listening experience."

Listeners are drawn in as much for Lipton's theatricality as his unblinking seriousness as he sings straitlaced about coffee breath, of-

fice politics and acceptance ("Did you ever think you had a funny face? You were right, and it's OK") — all in a wizen voice just on the verge of gritty.

"Even though a lot of the songs are funny, I have always thought that they needed to be taken seriously by us, and the musicians have always taken the songs really seriously as songs, because it does end up being funnier," said Lipton. "It's funnier to be more sincere about it."

The crowd at Barbès has always been good about being in on the joke, though one of the best parts for Lipton about playing there is, instrument-less, he can get there by bike. Though the ride doesn't leave much time for inspiration to strike.

"It's literally a four-minute bike ride from my apartment," said Lipton. "It's all downhill on the way home."

THE ALGO-RHYTHM

Ethan Lipton and His Orchestra borrows gracefully from a variety of styles and sounds — 1950s Memphis grooves, a capella, and Randy Newman's growl are just some of the things event in the band's hodgepodge of a sound, all united by Lipton's sardonic, melancholy voice that cuts through it all with a hint of honesty. But to really get a sense of what it's all about, we leave that up to our exclusive AlgoRhythm.



Take the groove of Tom Waits' "The Heart of Saturday Night." Then add ...



The quirky humor of Randy Newman's 1977 hit "Little Criminals." Then add ...



The unconventional of They Might Be Giants' 1986 self-titled debut. The result?



Ethan Lipton and His Orchestra's sophomore album, "Honker."

Bill of 'Fare'

Market opens private dining room — and it's a real hit!

By Kristen V. Brown
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's like a private Food Network taping — with a tiny group of friends.

The prep kitchen of the Downtown grocery Brooklyn Fare seems an unlikely contender for the most unattainable restaurant reservation in New York, but since opening last June, adventurous foodies have waited months to gather around a stainless steel worktable and sample the ambitious cuisine of chef César Ramirez at his hit eatery, the Brooklyn Fare Kitchen.

Luckily for those of us dissuaded by the restaurant's months long

DINING

The Kitchen at Brooklyn Fare (200 Schermerhorn St. at Hoyt Street in Downtown, 718) 243-0950. For reservations, speak with Heidi or e-mail kitchen@brooklynfare.com. Reservations for private parties of 12 or more also available.

waiting list, the kitchen finally went ahead with a small expansion — adding six extra seats for a total of 18, and a second dinner seating. Meaning, if you're lucky, you just might snag a reservation for September.

"We didn't want to change the

concept — we wanted it to still remain really intimate," explained Brooklyn Fare owner Moe Issa.

Five nights a week, diners have the opportunity to (for \$135) sample Ramirez's seafood-heavy small plates menu, which, on any given night, might feature a king salmon parfait with basil gelee, avocado, maple syrup and mustard, or a slow-cooked egg with sweet pea puree. With the expansion, Ramirez, a veteran of Bouley and other four-star spots, hopes to add wine pairings this fall, pending a liquor license.

Despite the success of the Brooklyn Fare kitchen, surprisingly it hasn't turned out quite how Issa hoped.

"It was really meant to be an experience for the neighborhood," he said. Instead, the kitchen most often draws people from around the country and the world, thanks to accolades from Q&A and Time Out New York.

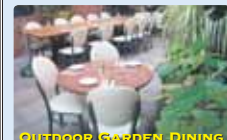
"Everything that we try to do is top notch," said Ramirez. "I think people noticed that. I cook what I love to eat, and people love it, too."



Michele Smith, Ramirez's wine director, picks out the vino.

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'Battle' stars

It's time to cheer Gen. George Washington for saving us all

By Damian Harris-Hernandez
for the Brooklyn Paper

Ready the cannons and prime the muskets, it's Battle Week in Brooklyn.

All next week, roughly a dozen events will commemorate the fall of August 1776, when Brooklyn joined the first real battle of the Revolutionary War — and most

of the action was found around an old farmhouse near Fifth Avenue and Third Street.

"The Battle of Brooklyn was the largest battle of the war," says Kim Maier, executive director at the Old Stone House in Park Slope. "Washington learned from the defeat that he couldn't fight a traditional war."

To celebrate, the Old Stone House, along with the Green-

Wood Historic Fund, has a wealth of events:

• Begin the week at Rawley Post in Park Slope by doffing your three-cornered hats to the Maryland 400, who held down the fort long enough for Washington's pivotal flight across the East River.

• From the remembrance ceremony, march like a Continental soldier to the Old Stone House — in the renamed "Washington Park."



Independence spirit: There'll be plenty of guns, but no gore, when the annual Battle of Brooklyn re-enactment takes place on Aug. 29 at Green-Wood Cemetery.

—to kick-off the week's festivities on Aug. 21 with snare and fife and ranger-guided van tours.

• Next, walk, paddle or pedal the Battle of Brooklyn during a bike tour on Aug. 22 at Grand Army Plaza to Red Hook's Fort Defiance Café.

• On Aug. 25, pretend the British are really coming and cross the Gowanus in a canoe, as the Maryland 400's Gowanus Drifters lend boats

for self-guided tours of Washington's escape route. Or, tour battle sites by land as archeology professor William J. Parry leads a neighborhood walking tour on Aug. 27.

• Over in Fort Greene Park, the Society of Old Brooklynites honor the 11,500 American martyrs who died on British prison ships in Wallabout Bay with Taps and a 21-gun salute on Aug. 28.

The week ends with guns blazing in Green-Wood Cemetery on Aug. 29, where musketeers in genuine revolutionary garb shoot off cannons and muskets. The re-enactors, including the all-black First Rhode Island Regiment, begin maneuvers at noon near the graveyard's main gate, followed by the annual Battle of Brooklyn Parade, which marches to the Merchant Marine's Regimental Band to the top of Battle Hill.

Maryland 400 Remembrance Ceremony (meet at Eighth Avenue and Third Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 499-9482), Aug. 21 at 10 am; Battle of Brooklyn van tour from the Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195), Aug. 21 at 11 am; reservations required; Battle of Brooklyn bike tour (meet at Park Drive and Flatbush Avenue in Grand Army Plaza, (718) 768-3195), Aug. 22 at 11 am; reservation required; Gowanus canoe tour (Second Street and the canal in Gowanus, (718) 768-3195), Aug. 22 at 6 pm; Battle of Brooklyn Neighborhood Walk (meet at Park Drive in Grand Army Plaza, (718) 768-3195), Aug. 27 at 6 pm; 512, Prison Ships Martyrs Memorial Ceremony at Fort Greene Park (enter at Washington Park and Detail Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 499-7600), Aug. 28 at 10 am; Battle of Brooklyn Commemoration at Green-Wood Cemetery (500 25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Green-Wood Heights, (718) 768-7500), Aug. 29 at 130 pm.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

Freeport (119 Ingraham St. at Varick Avenue in Bushwick), www.sundaybest-city.com

WALK AND TRAIN YOUR DOG: Join a certified dog trainer and learn how to have Fido stop pulling the

leash or causing trouble. \$45. Noon. Cheeky Dog Doggie Daycare (149 Plymouth St. between Pearl and Jay streets in DUMBO, (718) 222-9270), www.cheekydog.net/cheekydog/training.html

PERFORMANCE THEATER, "SPACEMAN FROM SPACE": 2 pm and 7 pm. See Friday, Aug. 20. THEATER, "LIFE IS A

DREAM": A Festival of Fools performs Pedro Calderón de la Barca's best-known play. Free. 2 pm. Prospect Park Music Taps (Empire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, www.alestval-festival.com)

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Schubert, Bloch, Ravel. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student).

3 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083), www.bargemusic.org

MUSIC, OPEN MIC: 5-8 pm. Pete's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770), www.petes-candy.com

MUSIC, MATTY CHARLES AND THE HESTATIONS: Indie-folk. 6:30 pm. Pete's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770), www.petes-candy.com

MUSIC, MEGHAN LASTER: 8 pm. Spale Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North

Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737), www.spalehill.com

MUSIC, HOWARD BRITZ GROUP: Featuring Chris Evans. 8:30-11 pm. Puppet Jazz Bar (481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2622), www.puppetjazz.com

MUSIC, THE SIMPLE MAN: 9 pm. Spale Hill Tavern (184 Bedford Ave. at North

Seventh Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-9737), www.spalehill.com

MUSIC, STEPHANE WREMBEL: Meets up the traditional Django repertoire along with swing re-

interpretations of standards. 9 pm. Barbes (376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177), www.barbesbrooklyn.com

SALES AND MARKETS PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

FARMERS MARKET: Free. 11 am-5 pm. 12 Bayne (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope)

OTHER SUNDAY SHARING CIRCLE: Provides an opportunity to develop connections in a supportive way. 11 am. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park East, (718) 768-2972), www.bsec.org

READING, ARTIE BENNETT: Author of the children's classic, "The Butt Book." Free. 11 am. Babbo's (102 Old Fulton St. at Pier 1 in Windsor Terrace, (718) 768-3475), www.babbosbooks.com

MON, AUG. 23

FILM, MOVIE MONDAYS: Free popcorn all night. Free. 7:30 pm. Della's Lounge (1024 Third Ave. at 92nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 945-7999), www.dellaslounge.com

MUSIC, NICOLE ZURATTI GROUP: 6-8:30 pm. Puppet Jazz Bar (481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2622), www.puppetjazz.com

WORKSHOP, LEARN HOW TO WRITE A HORROR MOVIE SCREENPLAY: Lecture, watching horror films, writing exercises, and workshoping student work. 7-10 pm. 3rd Ward (195 Morgan Ave. at Stager Street in Bushwick, (718) 715-4961), www.3rdward.com

MUSIC, SEAN PAUL: With The Mighty Sparrow. Free. 7:30 pm. Wingate Field (Brooklyn Avenue between Rutland Road and Winthrop Street in Crown Heights, (718) 222-0600), www.brooklynconcerts.com

READING, BLOGGER/AUTHOR PAIRINGS SERIES: Author Marcy Dermotik discusses her book, "Bad Marie," with blogger Larz Skurrid of Old Fash. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore (686 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200), abookstoreinbrooklyn.blogspot.com

MUSIC, COMEDY: Featuring Myl Kaplan, Sean Patton, Marc Normand. \$3. 7:30 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400), www.unionhall.org

MUSIC, KENNY VANCE: 7:30 pm. Asac Levy/Gaspari Park (Ocean Parkway at Surf Avenue in Coney Island in Coney Island, www.planetones.com)

WED, AUG. 25

TOUR, GREEN WOOD CEMETERY TROLLEY: Explore history, the grounds and bird life, and enjoy the Manhattan skyline. Reservations are

not required. \$15. 1 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery (Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 768-7500), www.green-wood.com

WORKSHOP, KNITTING: Free. 6 pm. Brooklyn Public Library (Flatbush Avenue at East-ern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100)

SPORTS, BROOKLYN CYCLONES VS. ABERDEEN: \$8-\$16. 7 pm. MCU Park (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497), www.brooklyn-cyclones.com

MUSIC, BIG BLOWOUT: Featuring DJ Todd from Frankie Company and Andrew W.K. at DJ \$5. 7 pm. Good Company (100 West 11th Street between Robbing and Haverly streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-7191), www.forgo.com

FILM, "BALL OF FIRE": As part of the restaurant's Brooklyn Indie Fest. 8 pm. Enoteca on Court (347 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens, (718) 243-1000), www.enotecacourt.com

MUSIC, ROOTS AND RIGOLS: Weekly American folk showcase. \$5. 9 pm. Jalepsy (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street West, (718) 395-3214), www.jalepsy.biz

THURS, AUG. 26

HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB: 6:45 pm. See Tuesday, Aug. 24.

FARMER'S MARKET: Bringing affordable, healthy food options, including baked goods and ethnic specialties. Free. 8 am-5 pm. 12 Bayne (Fifth Avenue and Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-3475), www.babbosbooks.com

FILM, "INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE": Part of Movies with a View. Sundown. Free. Brooklyn Bridge Park (1 Main Street at Water Street in DUMBO)

MUSIC, PAUL SHAPIRO'S RIES AND BRISKE: REVUE. Music of the 1930s and 40s. Free. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100)

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: The Cady Finlayson Ensemble. Free. 7 pm. Cobble Hill Park (Cortright Street and Verandah Place in Cobble Hill)

MUSIC, LATINO BY THE SEA: As part of the Seaside Summer Concert Series. Free. 7:30 pm. Asac Levy/Gaspari Park (Ocean Parkway at Surf Avenue in Coney Island, (718) 222-0600), www.brooklynconcerts.com

PRAYER SERVICE: Interdenominational celebration of 100th birthday of Mother Teresa. Free. 7:30 pm. Regina Pacis Church (1230 65th St. between 12th and 13th avenues in Dyker Heights, (718) 236-0909)

THEATER, "DEVILS": 9 pm. Free. 10:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore (686 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200), abookstoreinbrooklyn.blogspot.com

MAGIC SHOW: Free. 1 pm. Word! 126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096), wordbrooklyn.wordpress.com

FRIDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS: 9:30 pm. See Friday, Aug. 20.

SAT, AUG. 28

THEATER, "LIFE IS A DREAM": 2 pm. See Sunday, Aug. 22.

THEATER, "DEVILS": 8 pm. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Selections from Tchaikovsky and more. \$45 (\$40 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083), www.bargemusic.org

SALES AND MARKETS PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET: 9 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: 9 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Aug. 21.

OTHER READING, ARTIE BENNETT: Author of the children's classic, "The Butt Book." Free. 10:30 am. Greenlight Bookstore (686 Fulton St. between South Elliott Place and South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200), abookstoreinbrooklyn.blogspot.com

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Smartmom ready to move on

A few months ago, Dumb Editor told Smartmom that he wanted a younger columnist with younger offspring for The Brooklyn Paper's award-nominated parenting column. Smartmom felt like she was being stabbed.

"You're killing Smartmom!" she asked. "Don't say it like that," he replied, and blathered on about demographics, advertising, parents and that damn couch that Smartmom spent 12 columns on last year.

Smartmom went through a variety of feelings about Dumb Editor's decision to dump her.

First she was in denial. She reckoned it would take months, even years, for Dumb Editor to find a suitable replacement. She didn't let anyone because she really didn't think it was going to happen. Obviously, Dumb Editor would see the light of day and change his mind.

Soon after, Smartmom got angry. Really angry. In her mind Dumb Editor became Mean Editor. She couldn't think about him without

snering. She composed angry letters in her mind attacking him for his shortsightedness. How could he kill poor innocent Smartmom? What a jerk!

Smartmom decided that Mean Editor was ageist, that he was discriminating against Smartmom for being a 31-year-old mom with a pair of teenagers, one college-bound this summer. What was so wrong with writing about a 13-year-old and a 19-year-old? Don't teens need to be parented, too? Were babies the only kind of children worth writing about? Surely there was already enough Park Slope Parents and Babble about breastfeeding and Bugaboos.

Then the self-hatred kicked in. Dumb Editor's "rejection" really did a number on Smartmom's self-esteem. For a short period of time, she had writer's block and even trouble coming up with ideas for new columns. She started to doubt herself as a writer. Was she really irrelevant and over the hill? Was she really out of tune with her Brooklyn readership?

As time passed, Smartmom slowly began to accept the inevitable. She even began to feel better. She was supported by her friends and family in this regard.

Many of her friends and neighbors were shocked that Smartmom was being "killed off." They were incredulous that Mean Editor would do such a thing and that they would be reading about the trials and tribulations of her life while sitting in a coffee shop at Connecticut Muffin.

Smartmom was soothed by their kindness and began to adjust. She decided that she would leave the Brooklyn stage with grace and dignity. It wouldn't do to curse out Mean Editor and leave The Brooklyn Paper



By Louise Crawford

FAREWELL TOUR

hire an insect-sniffing beagle to rid the store of bed bugs during this citywide infestation.

And CNN's office in the relatively new Time Warner Center in Gahapthan was reportedly dealing with a bedbug invasion. Officials say they touched one in 15 residents, plus plenty of theaters, office buildings, housing projects and even high-end boutiques.

Earlier this week, Bergdorf Goodman said it had hired an insect-sniffing beagle to rid the store of bed bugs during this citywide infestation.

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ies become covered with the tell-tale signs: tiny bites, blood on bedclothes, or little patches of bedbug excrement, which looks like black pepper.

Experts don't know what to make of the recent comeback in bedbug activity, but some attribute it to a global travel and bans on particularly potent pesticides like DDT.

New York convened a government advisory board last year to study the problem. One of its recommendations? Appoint a "bedbug czar" to stay on top of the problem.

No doubt, Charles Hynes is the leading candidate right now.

PRISON...

Continued from page 1

ago that Mayor Bloomberg scrambled to pass a temporary measure that allowed the shows to proceed, despite an apparent violation of city law barring amplified noise within 500 feet of a house of worship.

Some critics of the concerts saw the work crews as yet another example of Markowitz's lack of respect for the community surrounding Asser Levy Park.

"It's insane!" said Mendy Sontag, the president of the Sea Breeze Jewish Center, which faces the park and is involved in a lawsuit over Markowitz's plan to expand the bandshell into a \$64-million amphitheater. "You got women walking with kids in the morning, and you don't know what the prisoners are in for."

A Department of Correction spokesman said that the inmates are "low-security-risk inmates carefully selected ... and carefully monitored."

But even those who weren't spooked by the inmates said that there are certainly people who would like to get paid to do the same job.

"It's nice the prisoners give something back to society," said Ida Sanoff, another foe of the amphitheater. "But on the other hand, there are a lot of people out of work that would like to get paid — even if just for a couple of days."

PIZZA...

Continued from page 1

man, and his attorney, Darryl Vernon, because a 2008 contract between the parties stipulated that Grimaldi's would be evicted if Colli was ever late on payments again.

And he has been late — multiple times this year, in fact. And in 2008, Colli was briefly shut down by the state due to \$165,000 in unpaid taxes, though the restaurant was quickly reopened.

Despite Colli's win on Friday, Waxman has said that he and his mom will not renew the Grimaldi's lease and will take control of the location's rare coal-burning oven — which is valuable because such ovens are illegal except where they existed before the city ban.

"We are looking at other [tenants] who will continue to make pizza and be good for the community," Waxman, son of the 87-year-old landlord Dorothy Waxman, said at the hearing.

Colli admitted that he was late on payments in July — a total of around \$66,000, which includes replenishing Colli's security deposit that he lost in civil court cases in 2008. According to the settlement that year, the late payments would justify Colli's eviction, but the judge disagreed.

Colli was calm during the hearing, but things got heated — and even physical — between him and Waxman during a recess. The two had given their cases, and Colli was livid, pointing a finger in Waxman's face and yelling.

"This is a stab in the back — this is bulls—!" Colli yelled, eye-to-eye with Waxman. "You don't know who you're dealing with. But you'll find out soon enough. You're buying yourself a lawsuit."

Then Colli turned and ripped a camera — which was capturing the circus — out of a reporter's hand before he went back into the courtroom as other reporters gasped at the brazen move.

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BUGS...

Continued from page 1

lyn Marriott, which is in the same building as the District Attorney's office and has thousands of transient customers every year, but Marriott management denied having any bedbug problem.

"We have no bugs at the hotel," a spokesman said. Regardless of the origin

of this particular infestation, there's no question that the DA is in wide company, as New York battles a bedbug invasion that officials say has touched one in 15 residents, plus plenty of theaters, office buildings, housing projects and even high-end boutiques.

Earlier this week, Bergdorf Goodman said it had hired an insect-sniffing beagle to rid the store of bed bugs during this citywide infestation.

APPLE...

Continued from page 1

users in Park Slope than there are in all of Staten Island, which has its own glistering Apple store.

Yes, Staten Island. Borough President Markowitz has been using his unique approach to luring Steve Jobs to Brooklyn, including buying an iPad and e-mailing the Apple honcho — and posting a video

of himself doing so on his website.

Jobs never responded, but Markowitz continued his pitch this week. "Bringing Apple to the

Municipal Building is an idea that is fortunately getting renewed consideration," he said. "This iconic, beautiful building has the foot traffic and the perfect Downtown location for Apple."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Get on a roll at Prospect Park

Brooklyn residents now have a new way to enjoy the Prospect Park area this summer: on a bike, for free!

Bike and Roll has teamed up with Heart of Brooklyn, a partnership comprised of the kingpins of Brooklyn's cultural center, to offer the free bikes every weekend on the Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope. The program was rolled out for the Aug. 6 weekend, and quickly proved to be a success, with many park-goers making use of the no-fee rides.

The free rentals will continue every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Sept. 26.

Heart of Brooklyn, which includes Brooklyn Museum, the Brooklyn Public Library, and the Prospect Park Zoo, hopes that offering the free rentals will give more people a chance to see the culturally rich area in a new way.

"Two-wheel travel is a superb way to explore everything our cultural campus has to offer, and the rich landscape of Prospect Park," said Heart of Brooklyn Director Ellen Salpeter.

Bike and Roll offers tours and rentals in six locations in the city, though the temporary Grand Army Plaza location is the only Brooklyn site.

"Biking helps visitors and residents alike get around town in a fun, healthy, and green way," said Scott Cavanaugh, a spokesman for Bike and Roll NYC. "We're excited to be coming to the gateway to beautiful Prospect Park."

Bike and Roll looks Eastern Parkway at Flatbush Avenue in Grand Army Plaza, (212) 260-0400, Fridays-Sundays through Sept. 26. For information, visit www.bikeandroll.com.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

It's back-to-school time, so this is the moment when educators, teachers, parents and students can start planning "green school" programs built around the concepts of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste.

And your friends at Waste Management of New York are here to help. Here are the company's helpful tips for achieving your recycling goal and reducing your waste stream:

- Purchase loose-leaf paper and notebooks made with post-consumer recycled paper.
- Choose solar powered calculators to save on batteries.
- Pack lunches in washable, reusable bags instead of disposable bags, and packing water in refillable bottles. If parents are worried about losing refillable bottles, buy one with a cap that can be clipped to a lunch bag.
- Use whole fruits and vegetables, rather than packaged products, as snacks.
- Replace sandwich bags with reusable sandwich-sized containers.

For additional ideas on standards-based lesson plans, videos, and interactive activities, visit www.thinkgreen.com/classroom.

GEESE...

Continued from page 1

"Five miles is just a number," the representative said. "The liability issue can extend 30 miles."

Later, the speaker added, "Can we put to rest the five-mile limit? [We're] not satisfied."

The minutes reveal that even prior to the so-called Miracle on the Hudson splash landing on the Hudson River last year, the city wanted to kill far more geese than other government agencies sought.

And even after Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger's famous flight, the agencies settled on a five-mile radius for goose round-ups.

That radius would subsequently be expanded by the city to seven miles this year.

TRASH...

Continued from page 1

pect Park throughout the week, along with six of the so-called PEP officers who patrol the entire borough.

Many park-goers were outraged by the blatant lack of filth enforcement, saying it verified what they had been saying for years: that no one is stopping people from disrespecting the park and its tidy users.

Park officials have ramped up public awareness campaigns this year, including an anti-charcoal program, but Zandi and others said that such efforts were ultimately not the most-effective measure.

"There is a difference between me — a volunteer with my shirt on saying, 'Please don't litter' — and a cop or Parks patrol officer saying, 'You're in trouble. I just saw you leave a pile of trash and barbecue coals by a tree,'" said Zandi. "Instead, they're spending time on unleashed dogs!"

The stunning statistics led members of FIDO — a dog advocacy group — feeling as agitated as a pooch after he's eaten a chicken bone.

"They target dog owners and they leave the barbecues and picnicking — they don't bother with them," said FIDO President Tony Chiappelloni, adding, "I'm not saying the two are connected, but this is nothing new."

Parks Department spokesman Phil Abramson said that the biggest problem in hitting litterers where it hurts is that officers actually have to witness the littering.

to include Prospect Park — though the park appears to be outside even that radius leading to massacre of some 290 geese and their innocent goslings.

The story sent shockwaves throughout the nation, and raised questions of whether any geese in New York was safe from the Bloomberg Administration.

Indeed, one of the speakers at that 2006 meeting presaged the inevitable controversy that would haunt Brooklyn's green heart.

"Geese will be the hardest to control in parks, [there is] an emotional issue," said Kim Wagner, a representative with Wildlife Services, the federal agency that would go on to gas the geese under contract from the city.

"We have people who hand out trash bags at periodic events," said the spokesman, Eugene Patron. "We're certainly trying to raise awareness through our BBO campaign — but there is obviously an enforcement component as well."

But that lack of enforcement meant left Zandi, who runs a photo blog of uncollected trash in the park, having to keep a her rat terrier on the leash, even during off-leash hours.

"The biggest tragedy is I can't let my dog off-leash on Sunday through Wednesday because the park is too gross," said Zandi. "Chicken bones can kill my dog and people leave them everywhere."

Fido in Prospect Park has been a hot-button issue for at least the last two summers. It all began when MHI Ventures, an event planning company, left the park looking like the city dump after an unpermitted party last year.

Then last winter, the park was struck by a wave of bizarre happenings that included the illegal dumping of animal entrails and chicken heads in the lake.

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Hut 3,4!

Stay in a teepee built from trash

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

One of the strangest art spaces in Williamsburg is now available for overnight stays.

Choreographer and multimedia artist Jill Sigman has unveiled "The Hut Project," a teepee-like abode built from stream trash she collected around her Grattan Street studio.

For three days earlier this month, she lived in the yurt-like refuge, greeting curious visitors with mint tea and questions such as, "What is your wish for your current neighborhood?" and "Do you think this world will come to an end?"

Now she wants to share the experience with others by opening it up for reservations. All you have to do is write to her with the date of your stay and she will send

you a price.

Sigman, who most recently appeared in Marina Abramovic's performance art retrospective at MoMa, is building a series of site-specific huts made from repurposed materials that tell a story about the surrounding neighborhood.

One teepee, Hut Number 4, is primarily made out of bits of discarded plastic and cardboard tubing that Sigman found on Grattan Street, pieces of clothes she has stopped wearing, and hundreds of worn-out twigs that she collected from nearby toxic brown-field sites and tail yards on Morgan Avenue.

"The weeds that look like sticks and ferns from the roof structure and other parts of the hut were gathered right near the studio and function as a kind of urban bamboo," said Sig-

man on her blog, thinkdance.net. "They seemed to me like a ubiquitous Brooklyn weed. I remember them from my childhood. They will grow in anything and have a recognizable smell."

She sees the hut as an "extravagant version of the emergency preparedness kit," but also as a container that people can live in, a place "where the concepts of dwelling, structure and art object meet."

Her goal is to use the hut as a way to engage her audience in live conversations about the connections between art, history, culture and environmentalism. She has already hosted one community discussion, with Arts in Bushwick, about the consequences of the state's left law, which would add protections to tenants living in loft buildings such as the one she is inhabiting.



TEN-HUT! Artist Jill Sigman invites you inside "Hut #4," one in a series of huts made out of found materials. It's currently on view in her Bushwick studio.

But allowing guests an opportunity to spend an intimate night in the hut for themselves is perhaps the high point of the performance.

art piece — short of making guests build their own post-apocalyptic survival hut and sleep in it. If you check in, there are

Hut dining options

By Aaron Short
The Brooklyn Paper

One of the rules of Jill Sigman's Hut Project is that guests cannot use the subway to leave the neighborhood.

But that's not such a big deal, as there are a bevy of drinking and dining options near Sigman's Grattan Street studio — the one-industrial wasteland now called "Morgantown" by gentrifying locals.

Here's our roundup:

- Start your night off with a margarita pizza at Robert's on Moore Street, and pick up a loaf of bread from the bakery's expanded bakery for next morning's breakfast. Remember to ask for paper, not plastic.

- If you prefer a quicker meal with more vegetarian options, turn the corner to Olive Valley on Bogart Street, which features tasty falafel sandwiches, carrot salads, and all sorts of puff pastry desserts.

- Browse the wine and spirit selections at Big Tree Bottles on Bogart Street, which carry several Long Island vintages. This time of year we recommend a rose, which will complement the rose-colored bits of discarded plastic interwoven with the hut.

- In the morning, pick up coffee and a newspaper at Varet Street's Cafe Orwell or The Archive Cafe across the street.

- After a potentially sleepless night on Sigman's concrete studio floor, better order a double espresso.

- Robert's (261 Moore St. at Bogart Street, (718) 471-1118; Olive Valley (43 Bogart St. at Grattan Street, (718) 894-1800); Big Tree Bottles (43 Bogart St. at Grattan Street, (718) 894-9433); Cafe Orwell (247 Varet St. at Bogart Street, (347) 294-4759); Archive Cafe (49 Bogart St. between Seigel and Moore streets, (718) 381-1944).

The Hut Project (1 Grattan St. at Bogart Street in Bushwick, (347) 945-9162) offers overnight stays through Aug. 31 and "open hut days" on Sept. 18 and 19 at 2 pm and 6 pm. For reservations, e-mail thinkdance@attglobal.net. For info, visit www.thinkdance.org.

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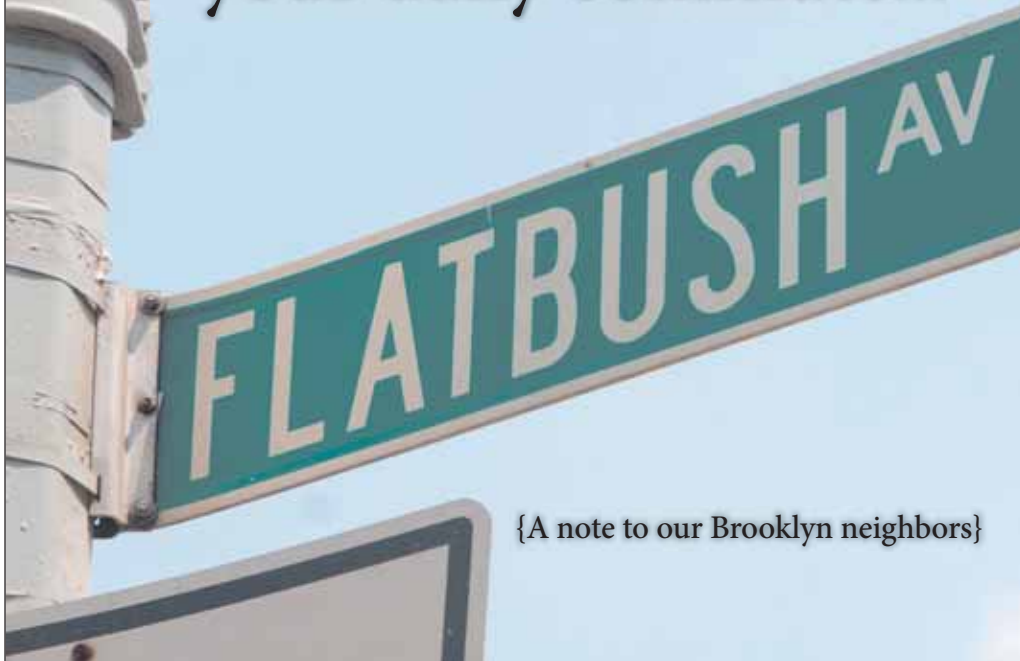
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If *this* is part of your daily commute...



{A note to our Brooklyn neighbors}

Starting *this* week, there's a change we want you to know about.



Three lanes will remain open to northbound Flatbush Avenue traffic between Dean Street and Atlantic from 7am-10am on weekdays.

At all other times, three lanes will be open to southbound traffic—as they always are.

WE ARE MAKING MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS to the Atlantic Avenue subway station including a new entrance at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic Avenues. While we make these improvements, there will be a temporary change to traffic patterns on a three block stretch of Flatbush Avenue.

Between Dean Street and Atlantic Avenue, six lanes will become five. During the peak morning rush hour (7am-10am), three lanes will be open for northbound traffic into Manhattan along these three blocks. At all other times, three lanes will remain open to southbound traffic, as they always are.

These changes will be in place until the new Barclays Center Arena opens in summer 2012.

We apologize for any inconvenience these changes may cause. We know driving in the city is difficult enough already.



If you have any questions at all please contact:

Brigitte LaBonte in the Atlantic Yards Community Liaison Office (866) 923-5315 communityliaison@atlanticyards.com